

VENOM

THE HUNTED

MARVEL
COMICS



SPIDER-MAN

JUN. '96

2

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

CONFUSED
COPS!

ATTACK
CHOPPERS!

FEMALE
SYMBIOTES!

SKATEBOARDERS!

CARNIVOROUS ALIENS!

FACE IT, THIS
ONE HAS IT ALL!

MR. J.R.



I HAVE A POSITIVE
VISUAL I.D. ON THE
TARGET!

IF THAT ISN'T
VENOM, MY AUNT
TILDY CHEWS
TOBACCO IN CHURCH!

DO WE HAVE
TO CALL IN FOR
A FIRING ORDER
FROM H.Q.?

NEGATIVE.

THAT LONG-TOOTHED
PSYCHO HAS GONE ON
A BRAIN-EATING SPREE,
CHOMPING THE HEADS
OFF INNOCENT CITIZENS!

THE COMMISH HAS
DECLARED VENOM'S
FACE A FREE FIRE
ZONE!

RATATATATATATATAT

HOLD YOUR FIRE! THIS IS ALTOGETHER EXCESSIVE IN THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE DEPARTMENT!

AS LONG AS HE STAYS IN MANHATTAN, THERE'S NO CHANCE OF OUR GETTING A CLEAR FIELD OF FIRE--

EEYYOW! WHAT IS THIS--

--OPEN SEASON ON SYMBIOTES?

--BUT THERE'S ALSO LITTLE CHANCE OF HIM ELUDING THREE HELICOPTERS IN SEARCH MODE! WE'LL TRACK HIM AND SIC THE PATROL UNITS ON HIM!

The STALKING

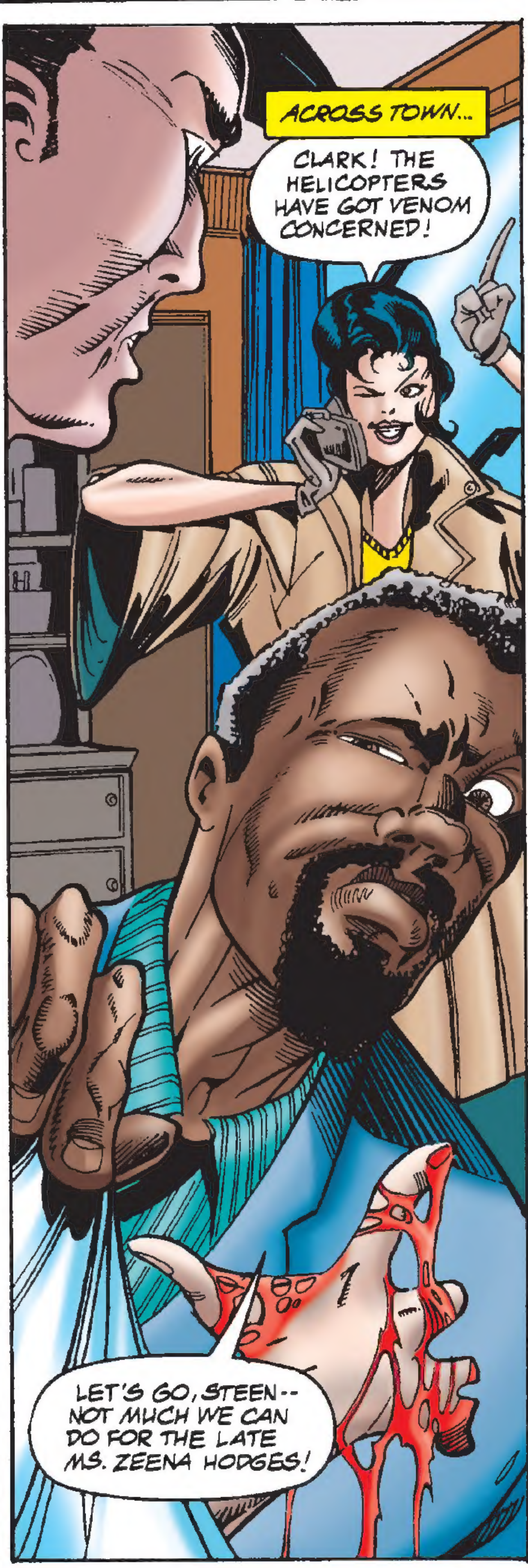
LARRY HAMA	DUNCAN ROULEAU	JOHN STANGELAND	
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	
KEN LOPEZ	TOM SMITH	TOM BREVOORT	BOB HARRAS
LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF



WE CAN SURMISE
THEIR INTENTIONS
FROM THEIR FIRE-
POWER RESTRAINT.

THEY THINK
THEY'RE GOING TO
HERD US TOWARDS
AN ENFILADE OF
LOCAL GENDARMERIE!

HA!
THEY HAVE
ANOTHER
THINK
COMING!



ACROSS TOWN...

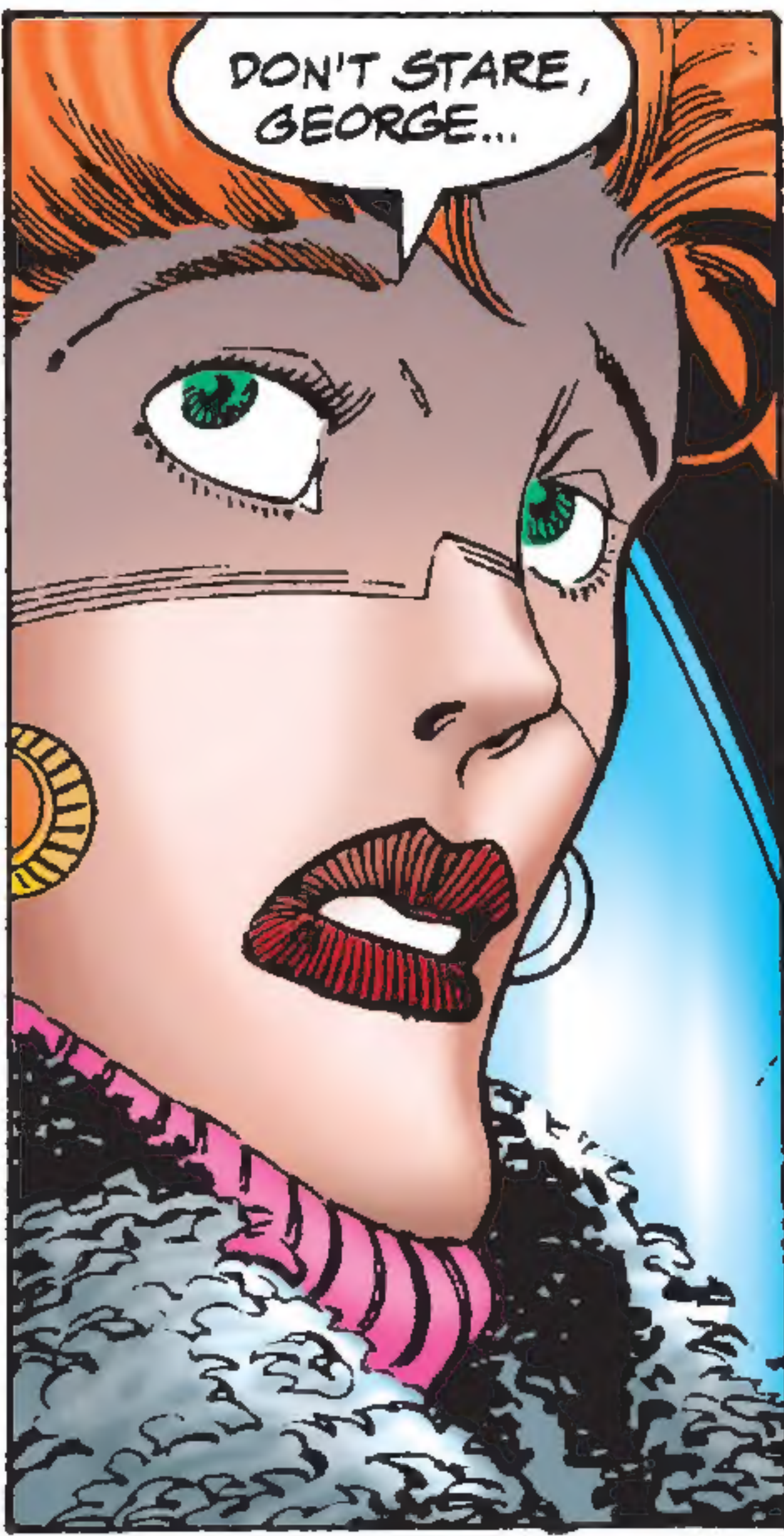
CLARK! THE
HELICOPTERS
HAVE GOT VENOM
CONCERNED!

LET'S GO, STEEN--
NOT MUCH WE CAN
DO FOR THE LATE
MS. ZEENA HODGES!



AND OUTSIDE...

IS THAT
YOUR
APARTMENT, DONNA?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PBA
CONVENTION IN YOUR
LIVING ROOM!



DON'T STARE,
GEORGE...



WE'RE JUST GOING TO
DRIVE BY LIKE WE'RE ON
OUR WAY SOMEWHERE
ELSE!

YOU SAID YOU HAD
A PLAN, DONNA! YOU
SAID WE COULD
HAVE SAFETY IN
NUMBERS!

NOT A LOT OF COMPASSION IN YOUR HEART FOR ZEENA,
GEORGE? SHE'S PROBABLY LYING ON MY IKEA COUCH WITH
THE TOP OF HER HEAD PEELED BACK LIKE AN ALPO CAN!

MAYBE I'LL FEEL SORRY
FOR HER AFTER WE MAKE
SURE HE ISN'T GOING TO
MAKE HORS D'OEUVRES
OUT OF OUR BRAINS!

THESE
GUYS ARE
GOOD!

I'M BORED,
BINKY--WANNA
GO VERT OR DO
SOME RAILS?

WE'LL HAVE
TO PULL OUT ALL
THE STOPS TO
ELUDE THEM!

YEAH, ROCKY--
LET'S GET--

YO! CLOCK
THAT
ACTION!

IT'S THAT
VENOM
DUDE!

ANYBODY
DOWN TO PLAY
CHICKEN?

STAY ON HIM!
HE'S PICKING
UP THE PACE--

--WHA--?? WHERE
DID THESE SKATE-
BOARDING KIDS
COME FROM?

BACK OFF! WE CAN'T
RISK GETTING TOO
CLOSE OR TAKING
ANOTHER SHOT WHILE
THOSE KIDS ARE RIGHT
ON TOP OF HIM!

NO WAY!
I'M DAZZLIN'
THE CROWD
TODAY!

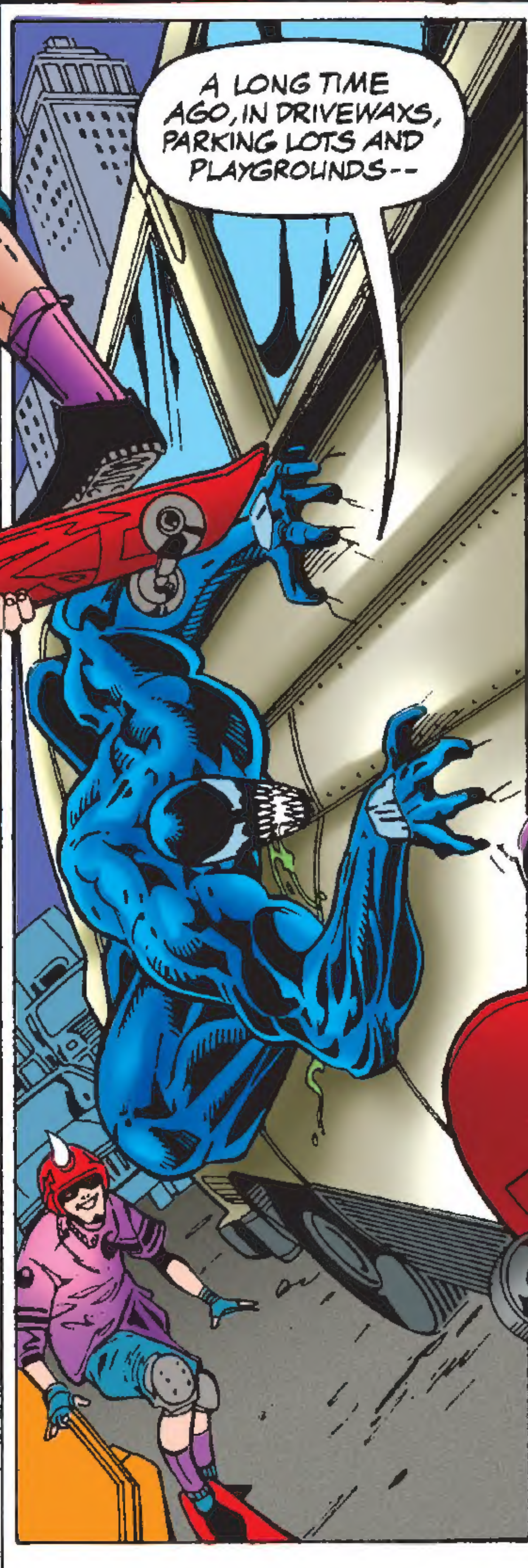
CLOCK
THIS,
ROCKY--

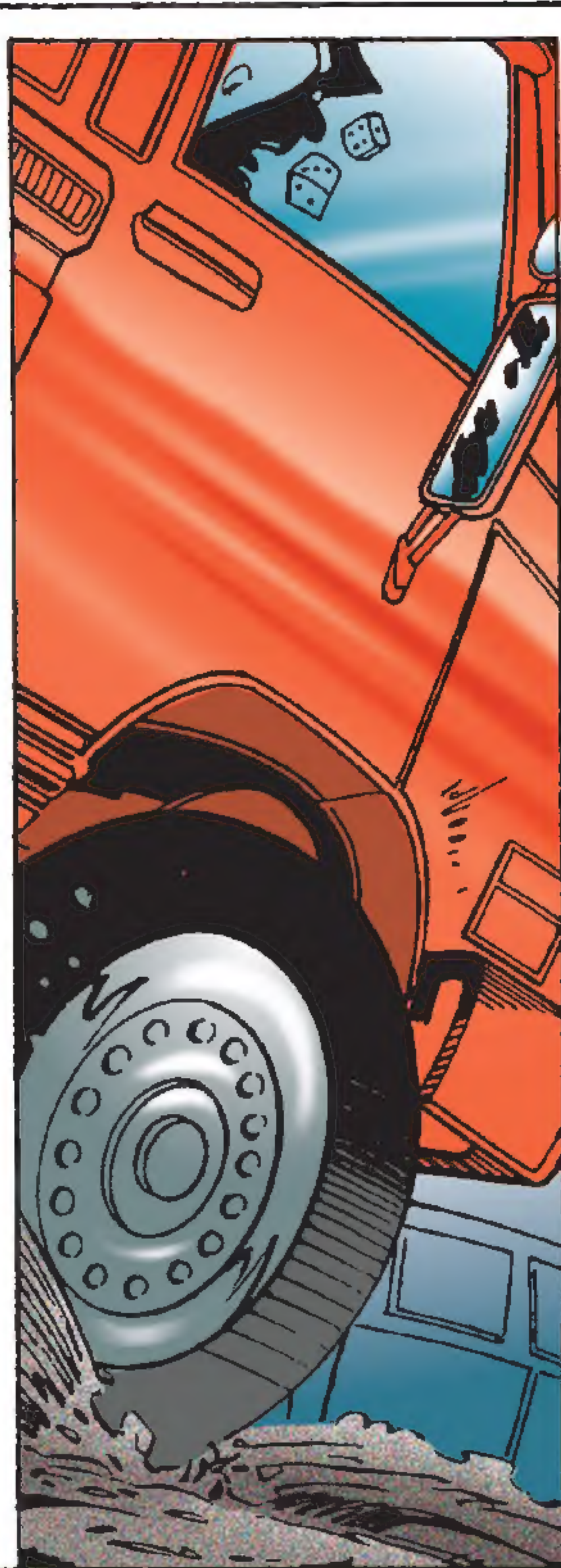
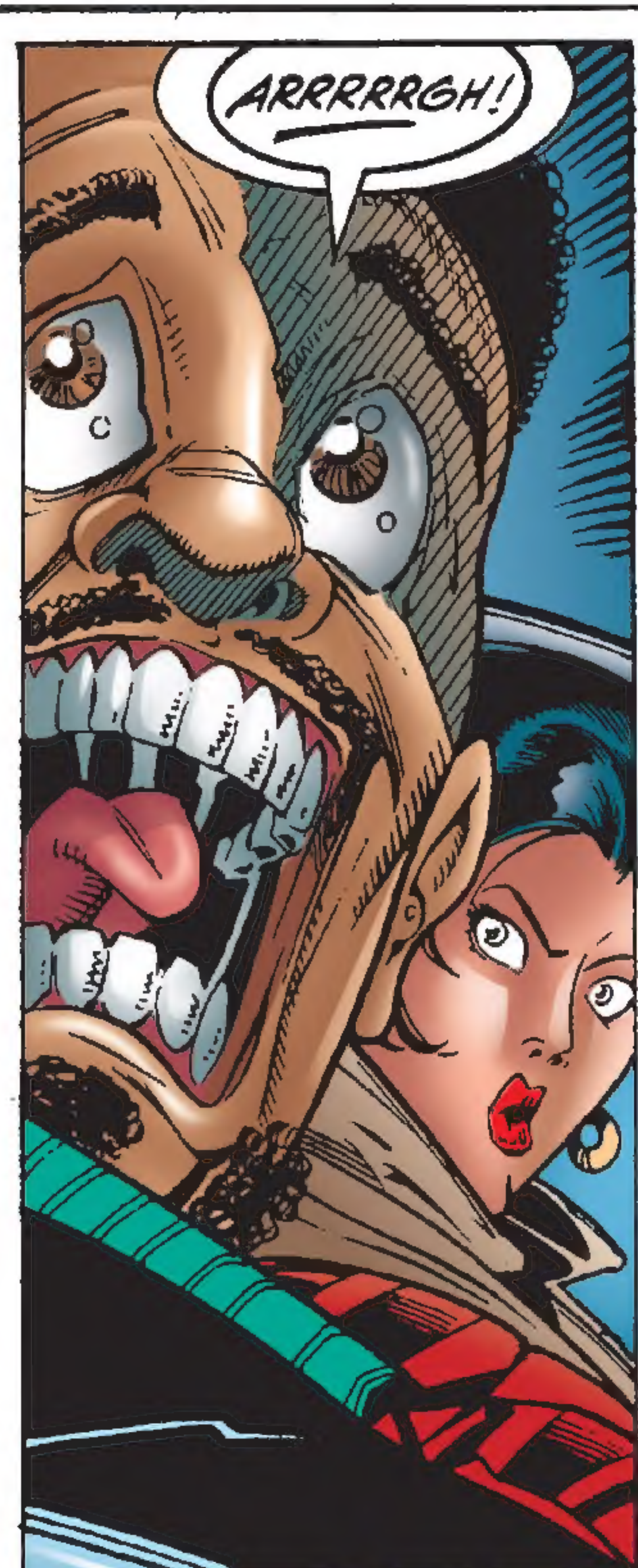
--I'M
STORMIN'!!

WATCH THOSE
OLLIES, BINKY!
YOU'LL BE SCRAPIN'
ASPHALT WITH
YOUR FACE!

YOU KIDS
HAD BETTER
STAY CLEAR
OF US--!!

CAN'T YOU
SEE THAT WE'RE
A MOVING
TARGET?

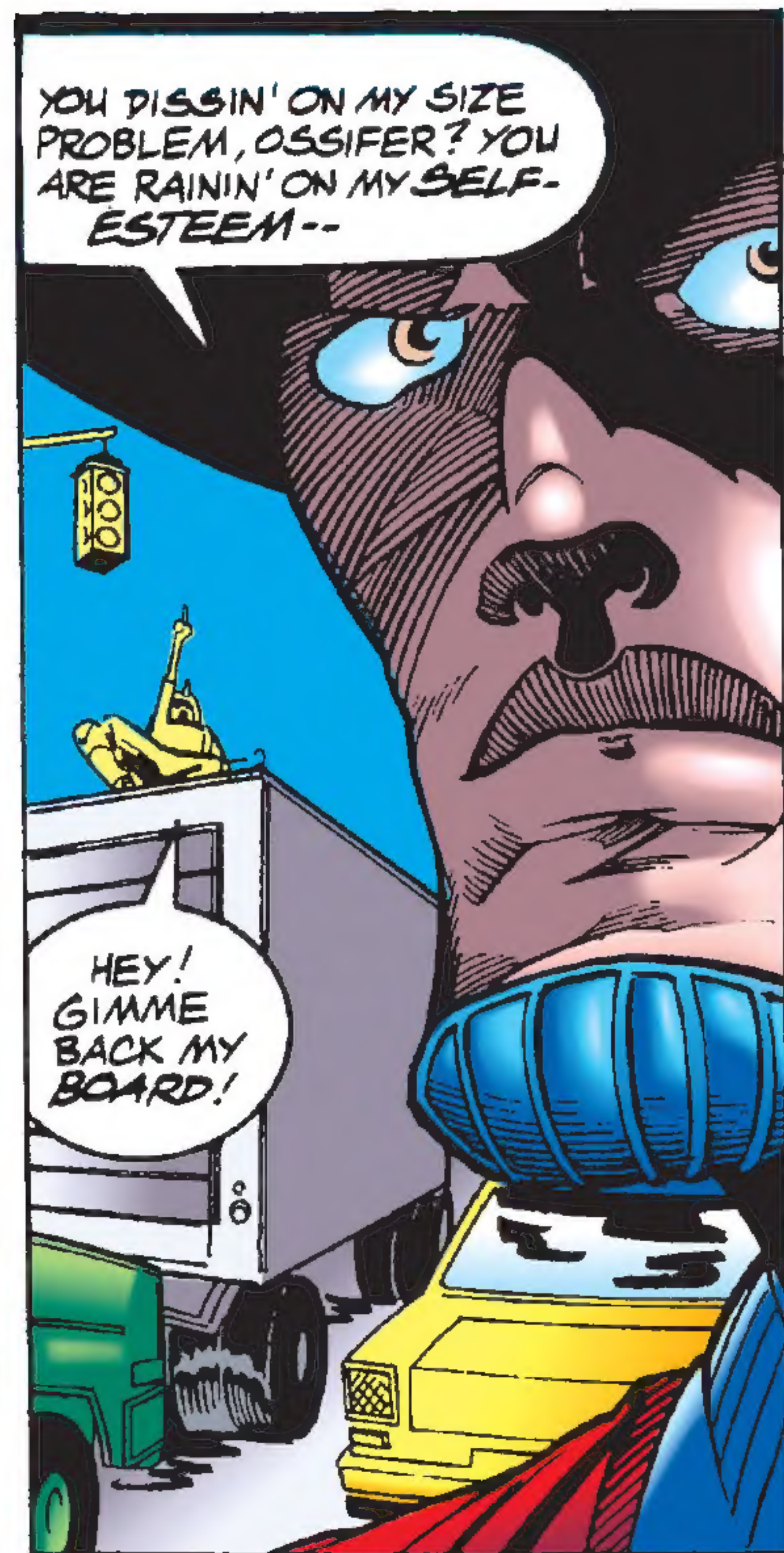
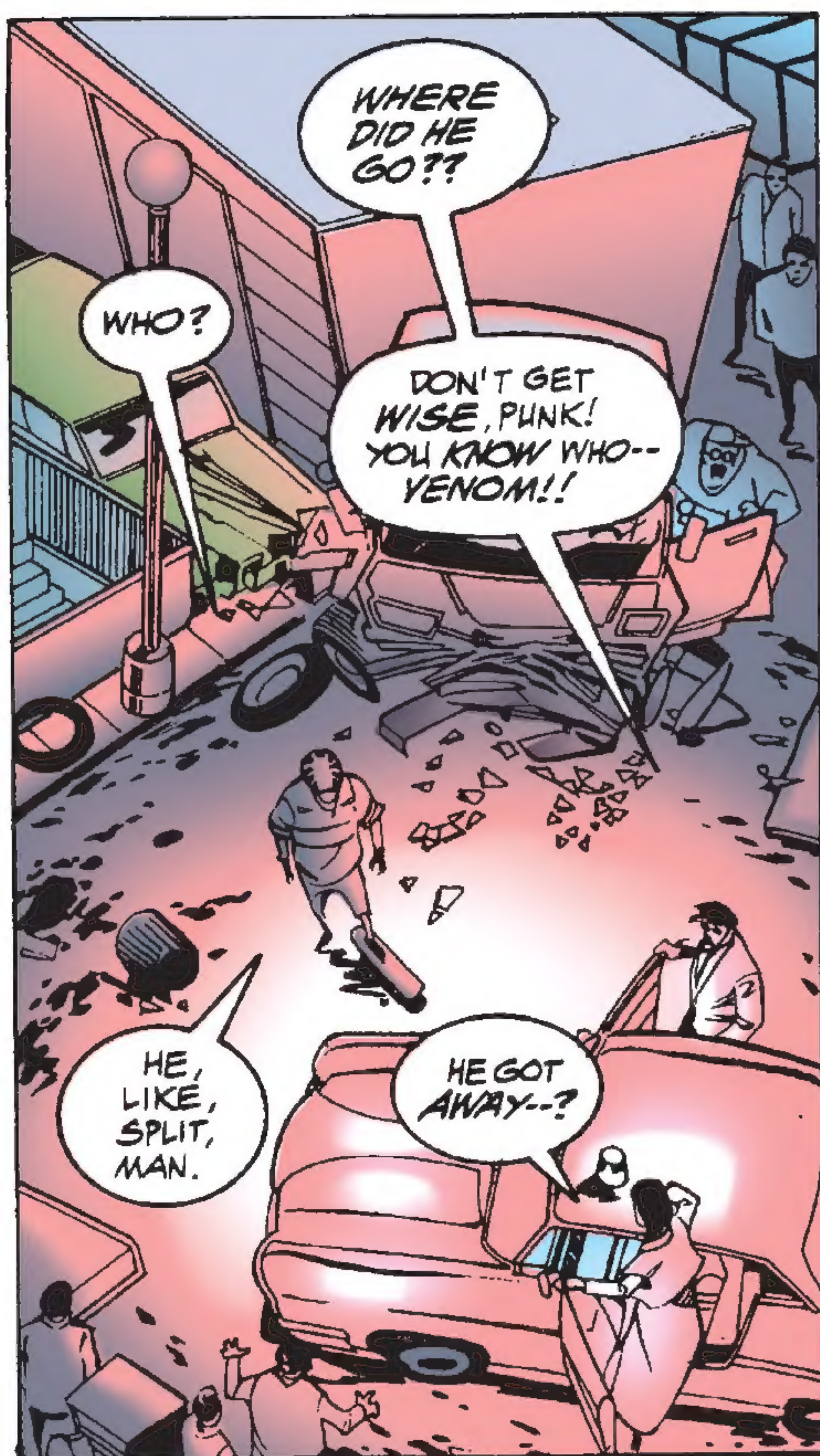




SKREEEEEEEE







AT DONNA'S
APARTMENT...

SNIK

ALL CLEAR,
GEORGE!

YOU SURE
ALL THE COPS
HAVE CLEARED
OUT, DONNA?

YOU THINK THIS
CITY HAS THE
BUDGET TO KEEP
GUARDS AT EVERY
MURDER SCENE?
GET REAL!

BESIDES, THERE'S
NO WAY I'M GONNA
LET MY PERSONAL
THINGS END UP IN A
POLICE PROPERTY
ROOM!

WE GOTTA
GET
OUTTA
HERE!!

SHUT
UP!!

I KNOW
WHAT I'M
DOING!

I'VE CO-EXISTED
WITH MY ALIEN
SYMBIOTE A LOT
LONGER THAN YOU
HAVE!!

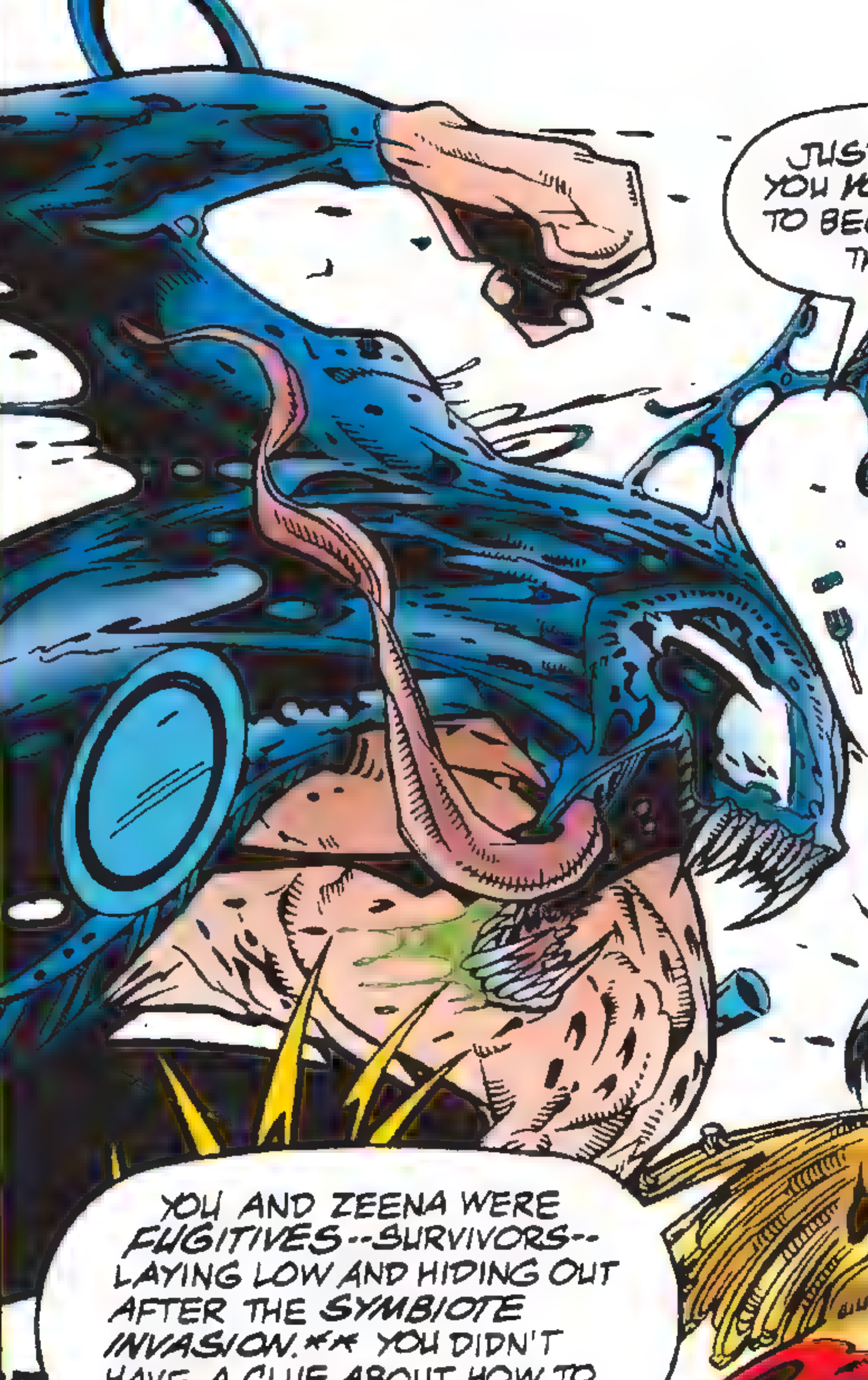
THIS IS
NUTS!

THAT
MONSTER
COULD BE
HERE!

IT'S
KILLED
ALL THE
OTHERS!



YOU
THINK YOU'RE
SPECIAL
HUH--?



JUST BECAUSE
YOU VOLUNTEERED
TO BECOME LIKE
THIS??*

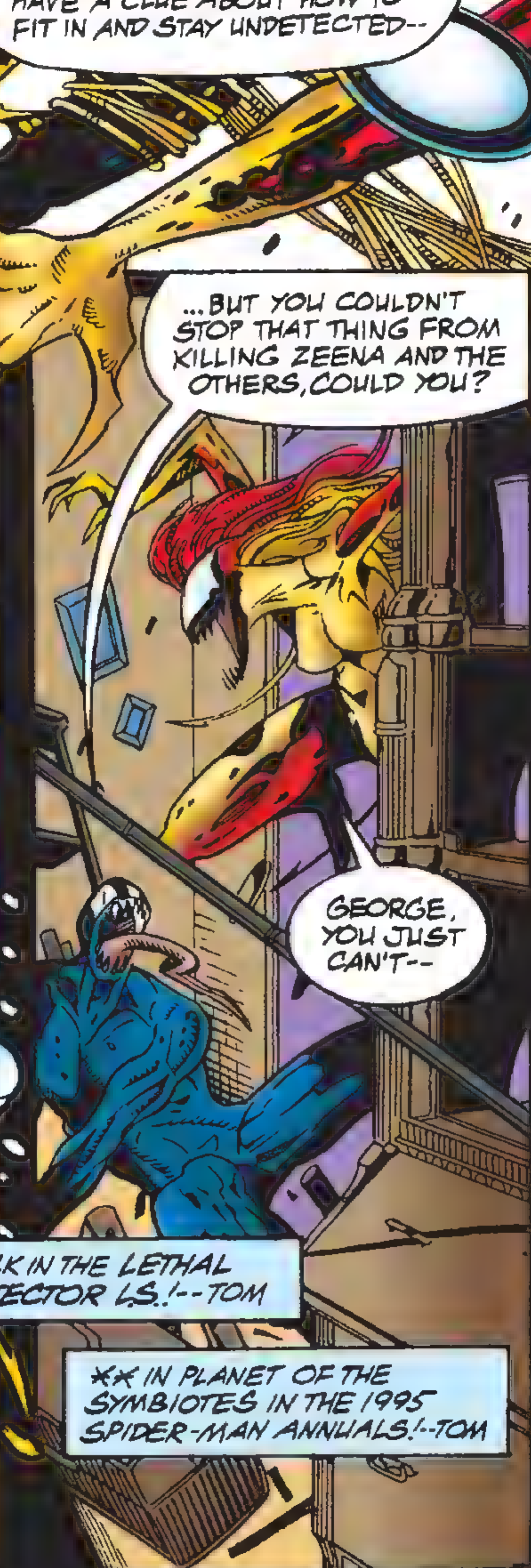
LET'S NOT
BRING THE LIFE
FOUNDATION
INTO THIS!

YOU AND ZEENA WERE
FUGITIVES--SURVIVORS--
LAYING LOW AND HIDING OUT
AFTER THE SYMBIOTE
INVASION.** YOU DIDN'T
HAVE A CLUE ABOUT HOW TO
FIT IN AND STAY UNDETECTED--

--UNTIL I SOUGHT
YOU OUT AND TRIED
TO KEEP YOU ALL
OUT OF TROUBLE!



OH, YOU KEPT
US OUT OF
TROUBLE,
ALL RIGHT...



...BUT YOU COULDN'T
STOP THAT THING FROM
KILLING ZEENA AND THE
OTHERS, COULD YOU?

GEORGE,
YOU JUST
CAN'T--

* BACK IN THE LETHAL
PROTECTOR I.S.!--TOM

** IN PLANET OF THE
SYMBIOTES IN THE 1995
SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS!--TOM



--WAITA-
MINUTE!

THAT UGLY
PIECE OF
FURNITURE
ISN'T MINE!

OMIGOD!
IT'S--IT'S--

IT IS A THING THAT
HUNGERS FOR
SYMBIOTE MEAT.

ASSUMING THE
APPEARANCE OF A
HARMLESS OBJECT,
IT HAS LAIN DORMANT,
PATIENTLY AWAITING
THE RETURN OF ITS
PREY.

THE PREY
RESISTS.

THE PREY
ALWAYS
RESISTS...

...BUT TO
NO AVAIL.

IT IS A XENOPHAGE, A
DEVOURER OF SYMBIOTES,
AND IT HAS TRAVELED
ACROSS A GALAXY IN
SEARCH OF ITS FAVORED
FOODSTUFF.



NO MERE BRUTISH PREDATOR,
BUT A CUNNING, PLANNING,
TOOL-MAKING, SENTIENT
BEING WITH PARTICULAR
TASTES AND A HEARTY
APPETITE.

IT THINKS NO MORE
OF ITS VICTIMS THAN
A PARISIAN DOES OF
A PLUMP ESCARGOT.

IN FACT, IT CONSIDERS
ITSELF SOMEWHAT OF
A GOURMET.

IT HAS DECIDED TO
TAKE THE EDGE OFF
ITS HUNGER BY DINING
ON THE MALE.

ALAS, IT IS ONLY
RECENTLY MELDED,
AND THE FLAVOR
IS RATHER BLAND.

THE DISAPPOINTMENT IS
ASSUAGED BY THE MOUTH-
WATERING PROMISE OF THE
LONG-MELDED SYMBIOTE
KNOWN AS VENOM!

IT IMAGINES THE
SUBLIME TANG AND
THE INTRICATE
AFTERTASTES.

PERHAPS IT SHALL
SAVE THE FEMALE
FOR DESSERT.

THAT EVENING,
AT A PIER ON
THE HUDSON
RIVER...

--HERE COMES
RAD EDDIE ON
HIS RUN FOR THE
FINAL!

NICE FAT NOSEBONES
AND OLLIES--WHOA,
CLOCK THE FRONTSIDE
GRABS AND THE BACK-
SIDE SMITH GRIND!

HE FINISHES WITH
A HIGH SHIFTY AND
A 180 OVER THE HIP!!
HE'S GOT THE PURSE
IN THE BAG!

WITH MY
SYMBIOTE, I
CAN DO ALL THE
STUNTS I ONLY
DREAMED ABOUT
WHEN I WAS A
KID!

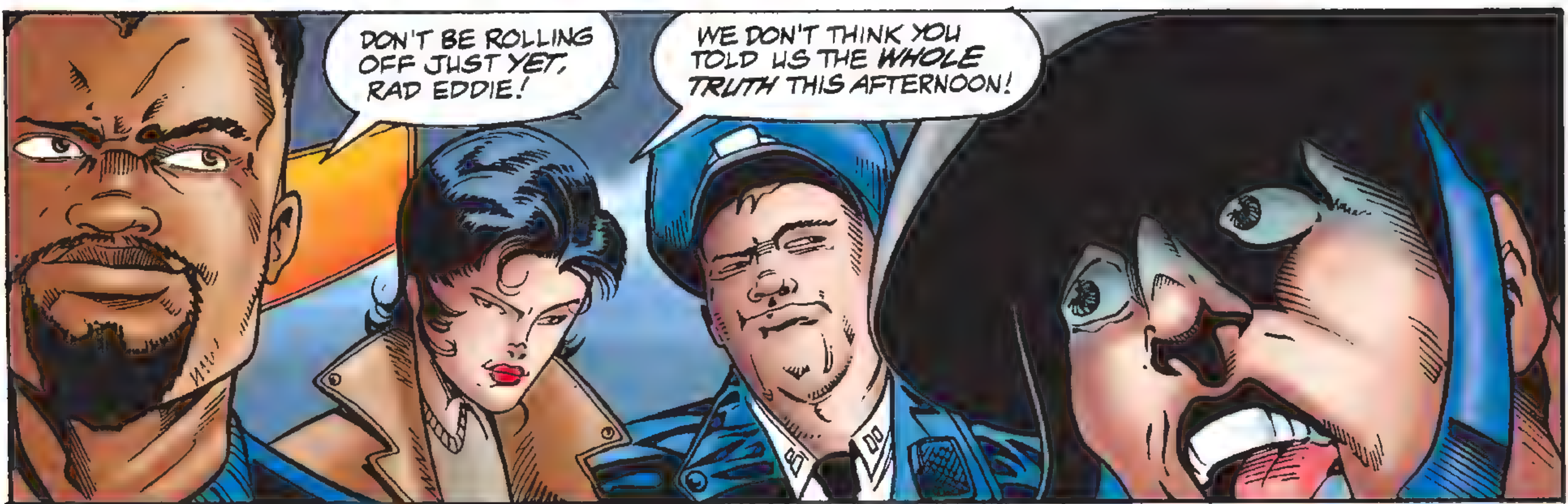
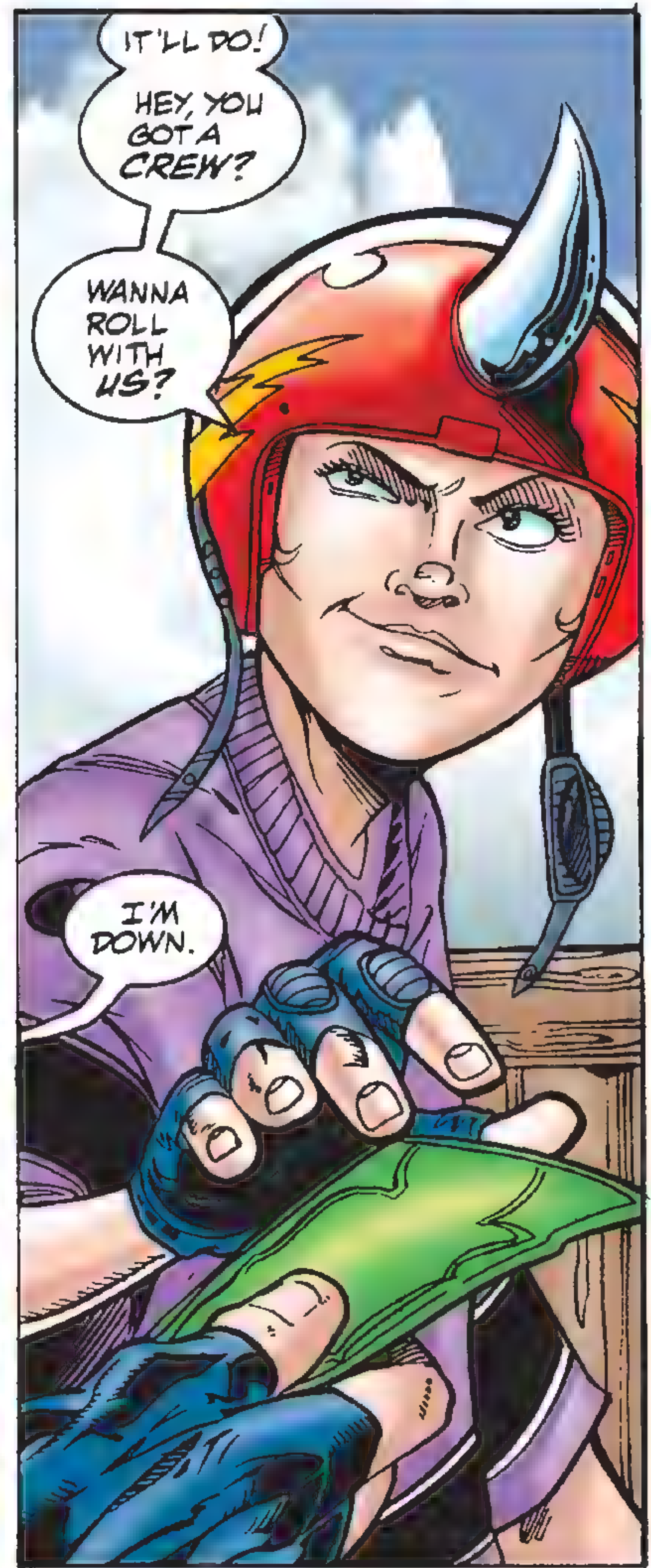
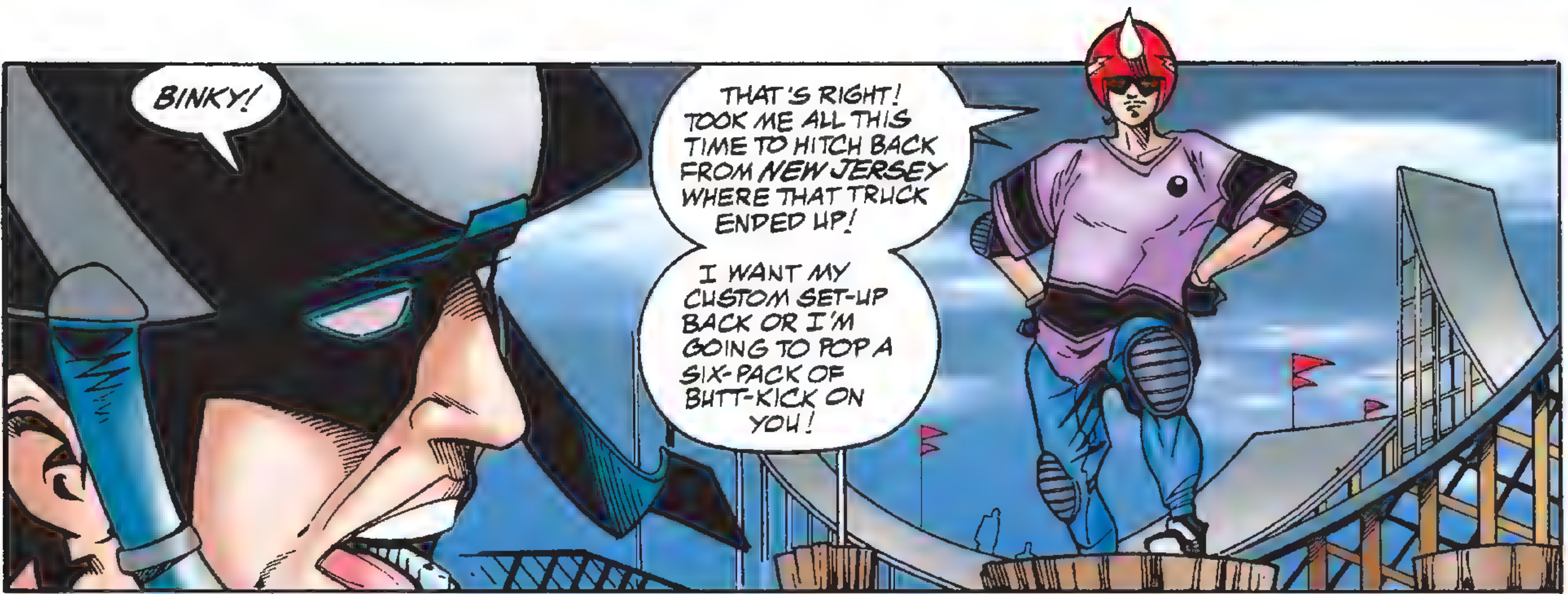
IT DOESN'T SEEM
HARDLY FAIR TO THE
OTHER SKATERS, BUT
WE COULD SURE USE
THE MONEY!

LATER...

YOU WERE STORMIN',
RAD EDDIE! YOU COPPED
THE FIVE CEES, THE BRAND-
NEW CAPITAL SET-UP, THE
RAGIN' BLUNT PARKA AND
THE D.C. KICKS!

AW,
IT WAS--

HEY YOU!
FRANKENSTEIN
ON WHEELS--





WE DID A CANVASS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND TURNED UP TWO WITNESSES WHO SAY THEY SAW VENOM ON TOP OF THE TRUCK ONE SECOND--

--AND THE NEXT SECOND, YOU WERE SKATING OUT FROM BEHIND THE TRUCK!

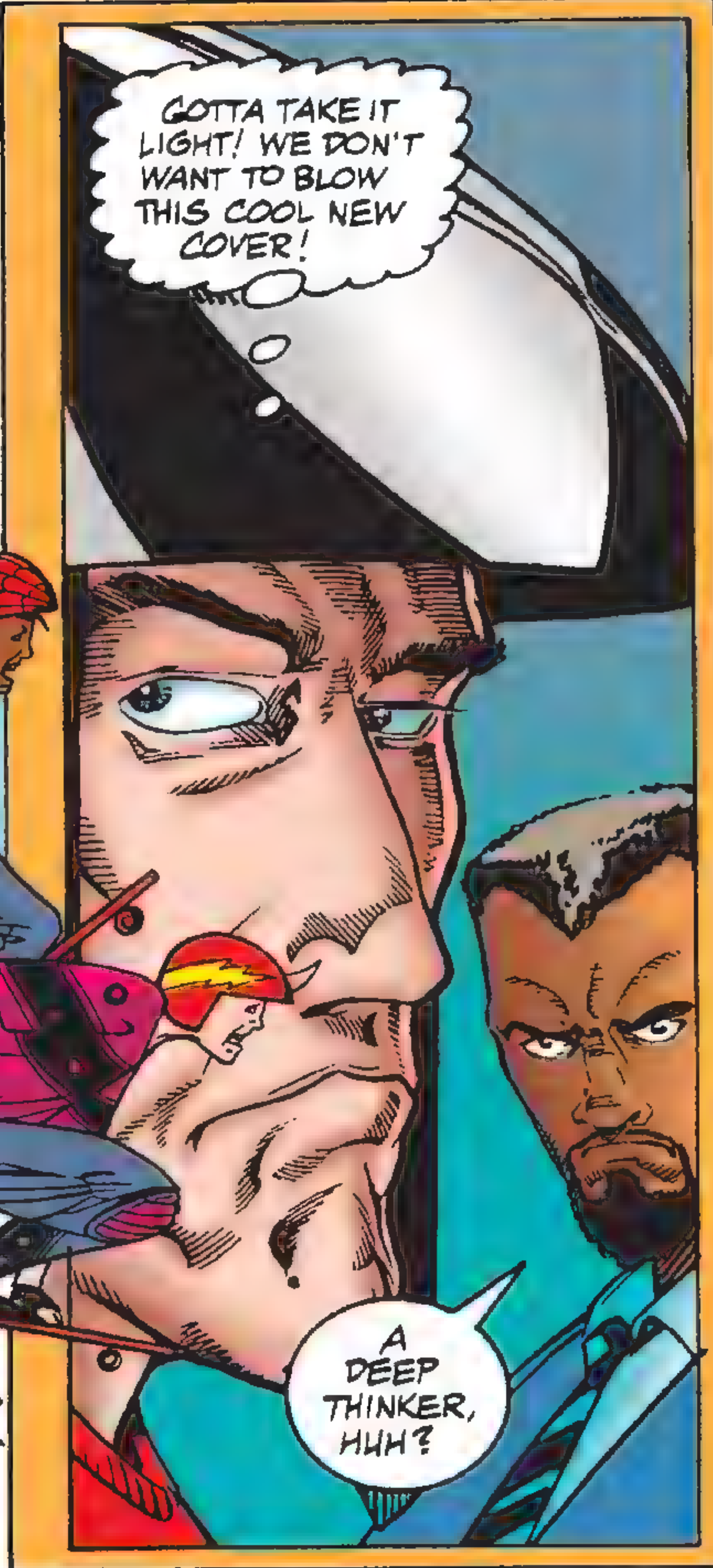
YOU MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING!

HEY, ROCKY, WHAT DOES YOUR OLD MAN DO FOR A LIVIN'?

NOTHIN'! HE'S A COP!

HONEST?

NAAAA! JUST LIKE THE REST O' THEM!



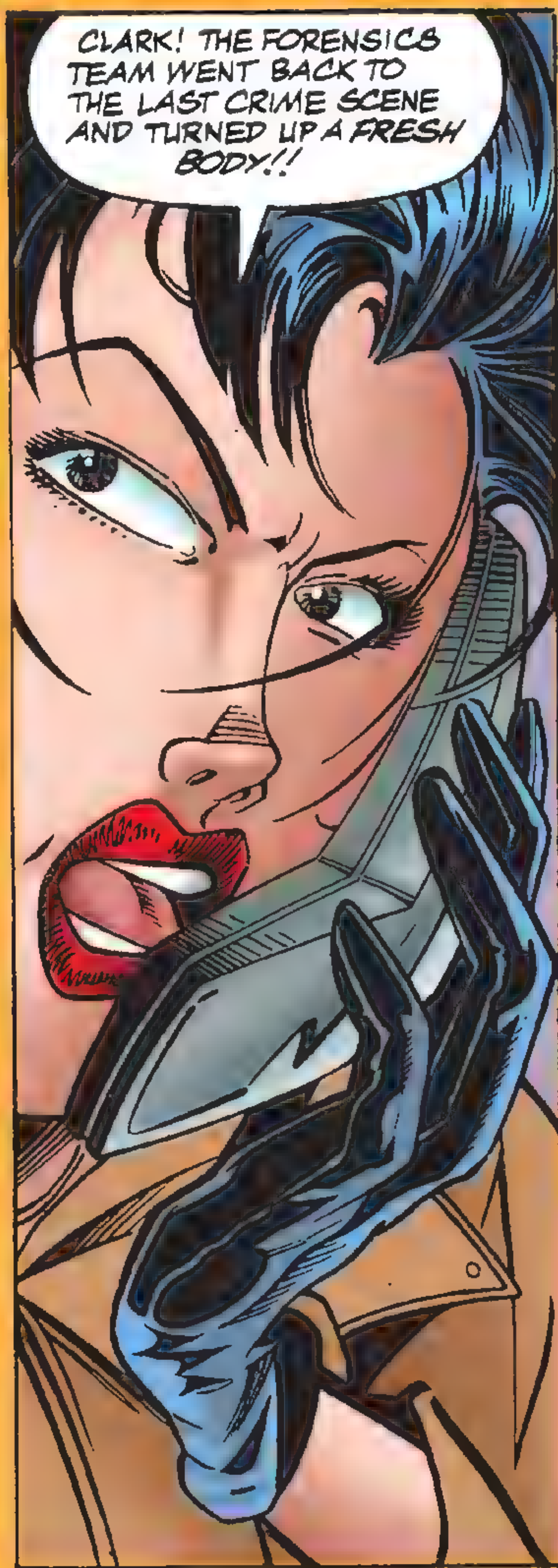
GOTTA TAKE IT LIGHT! WE DON'T WANT TO BLOW THIS COOL NEW COVER!

A DEEP THINKER, HUH?



YOUR BUDDIES HAVE BUGGED OUT ON YOU, BIG FELLA--

MAYBE YOU OUGHTA COME CLEAN.



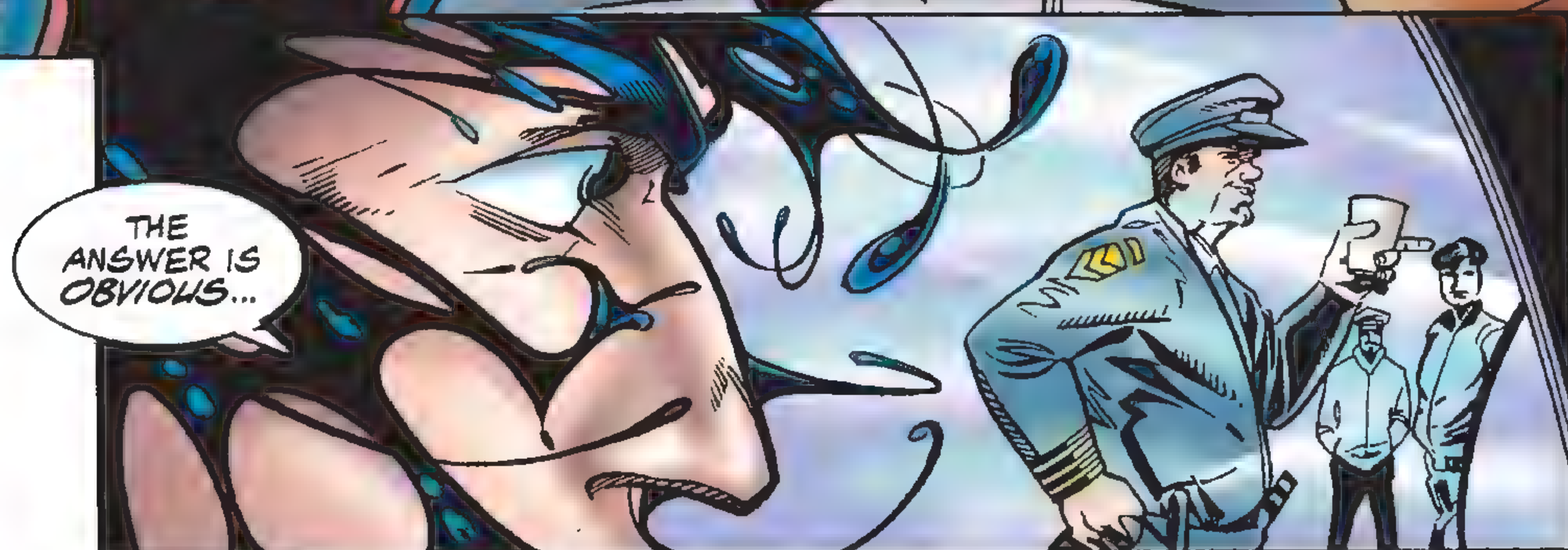
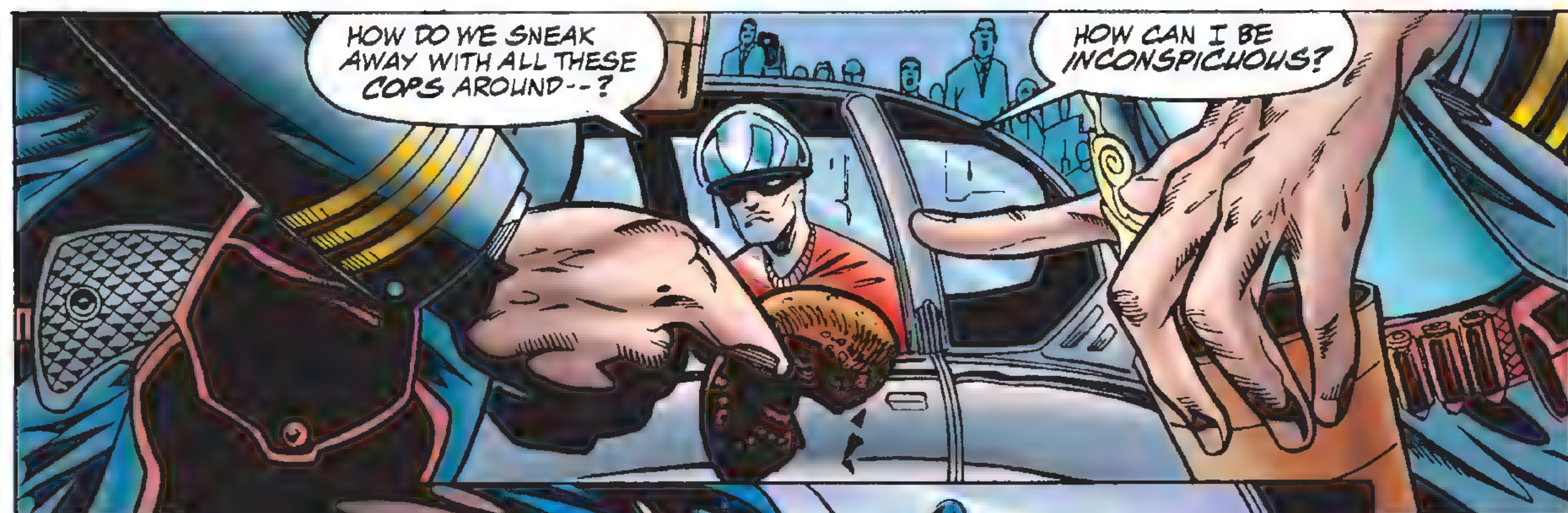
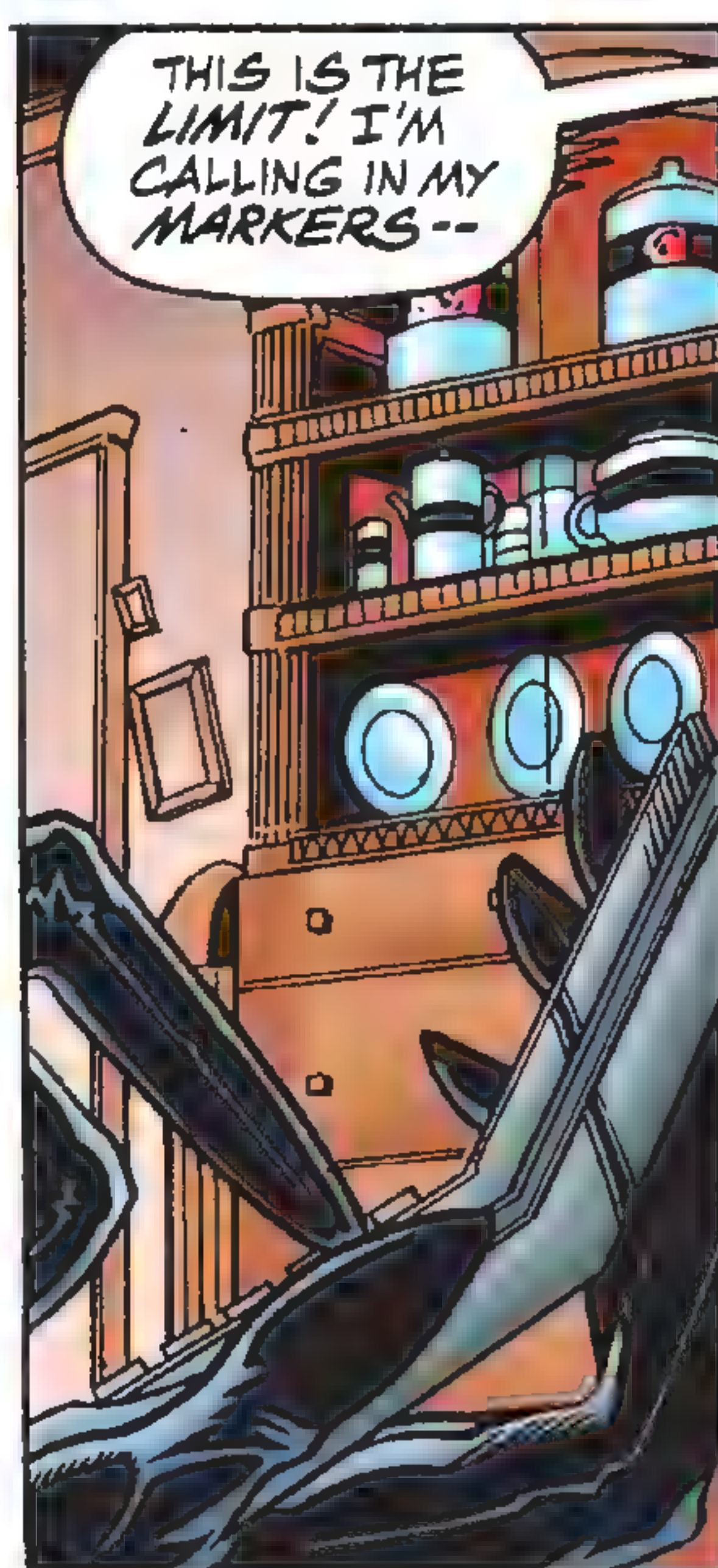
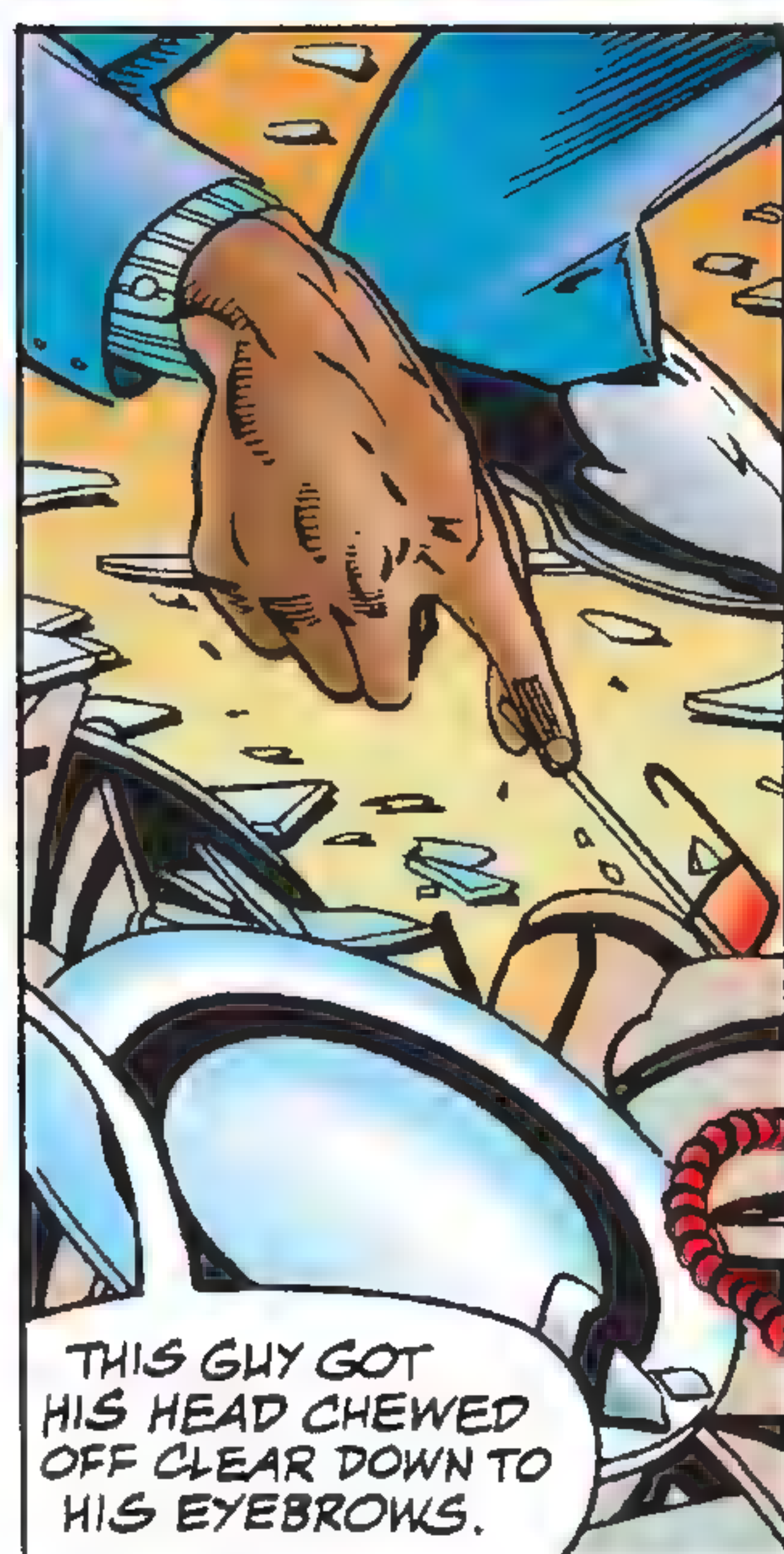
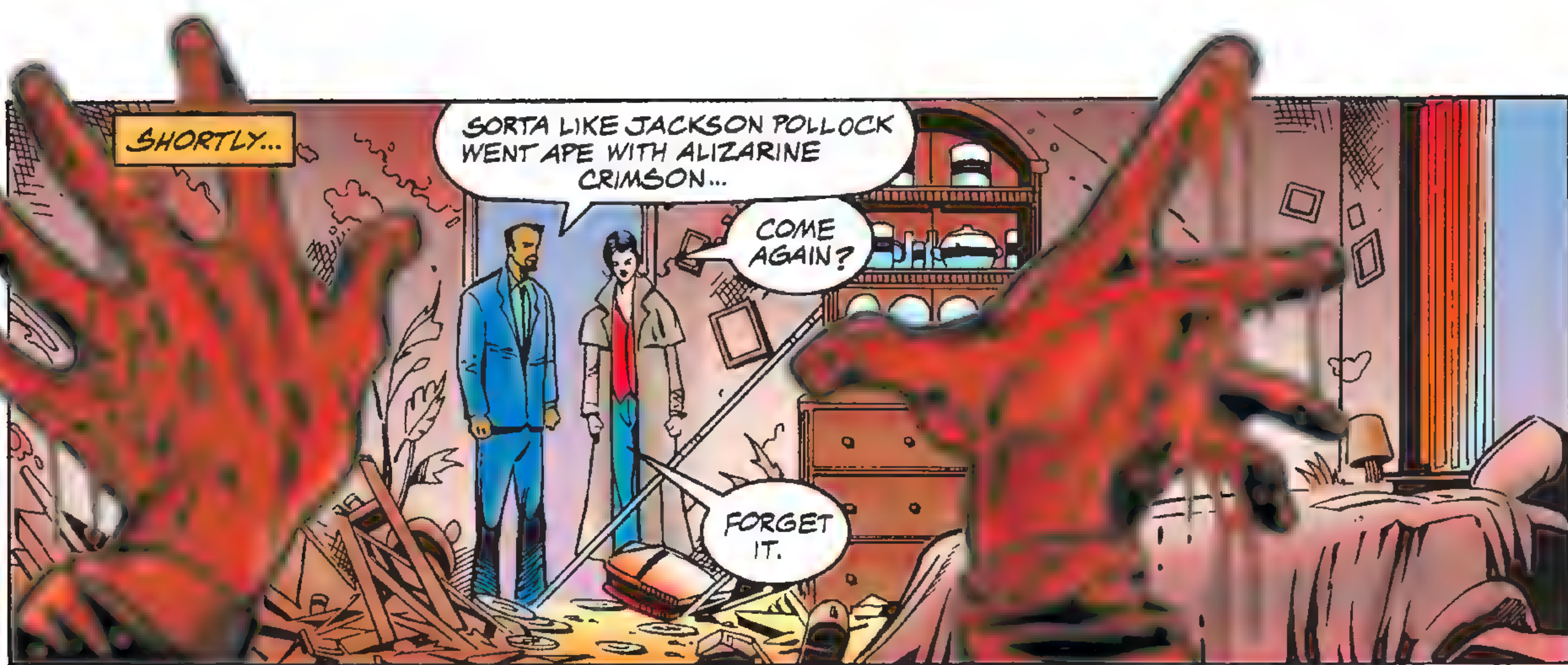
CLARK! THE FORENSICS TEAM WENT BACK TO THE LAST CRIME SCENE AND TURNED UP A FRESH BODY!!

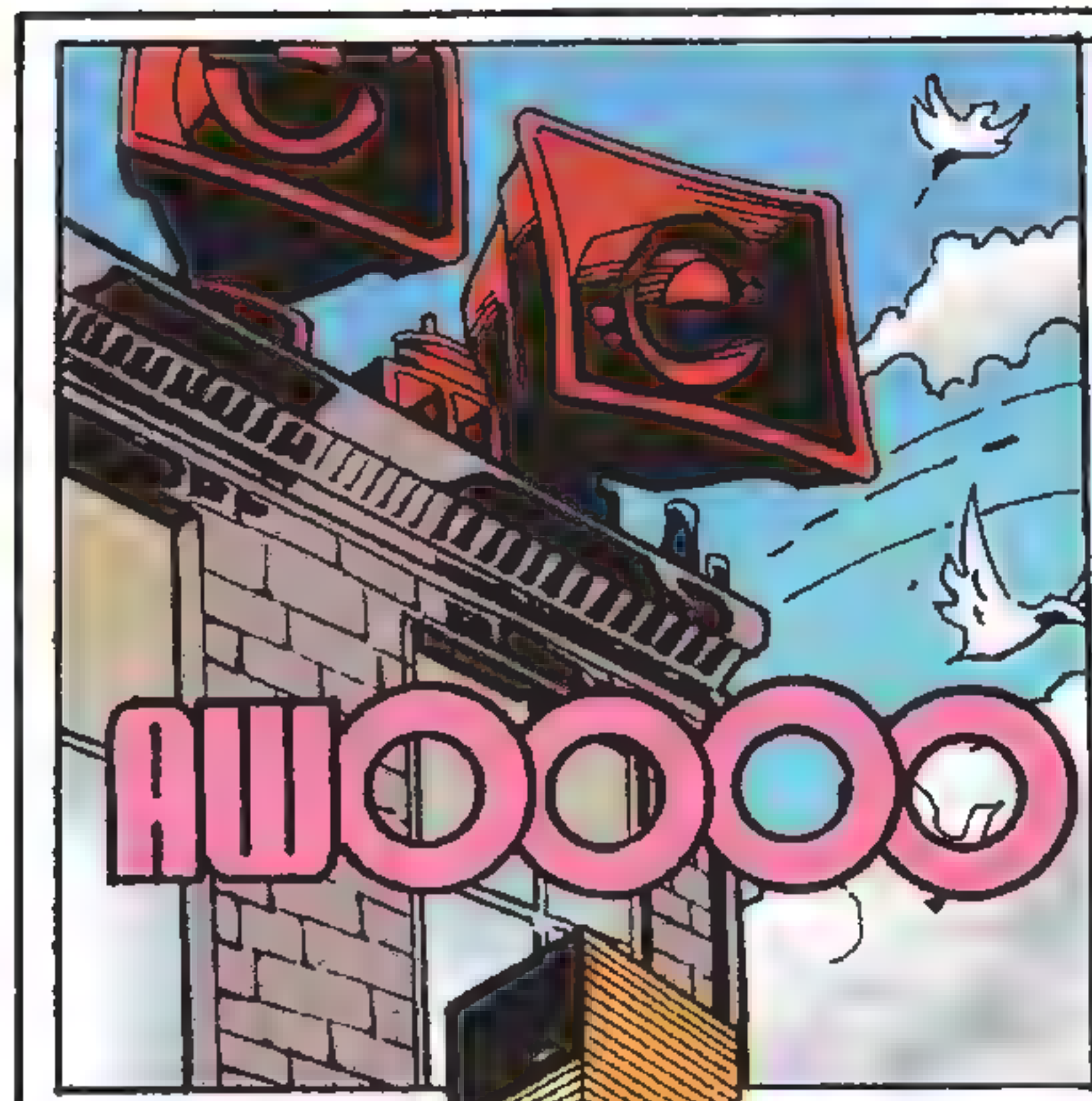
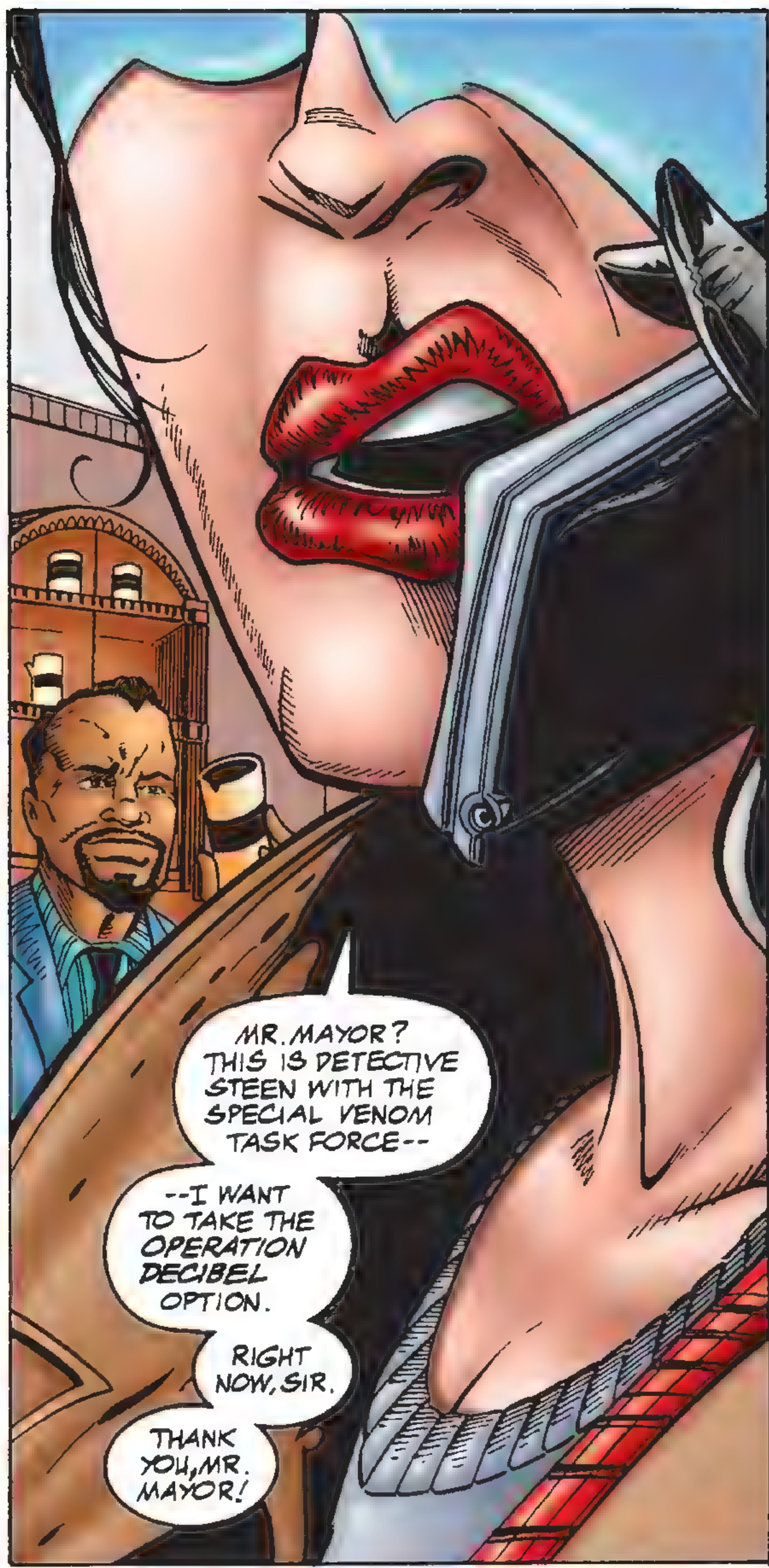


SADDLE UP!

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THIS KID--

HAUL HIM ALONG FOR THE RIDE!







EEEEYOW!!
INTENSE
SOUND--!!

--I--
CAN'T--
TAKE--
IT!!

BONG
BONG

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO HIM?

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT
BUDDY?

OF COURSE
I'M NOT ALL
RIGHT, YOU
IDIOT!!



EEEYAAA!

OOOOOOOO

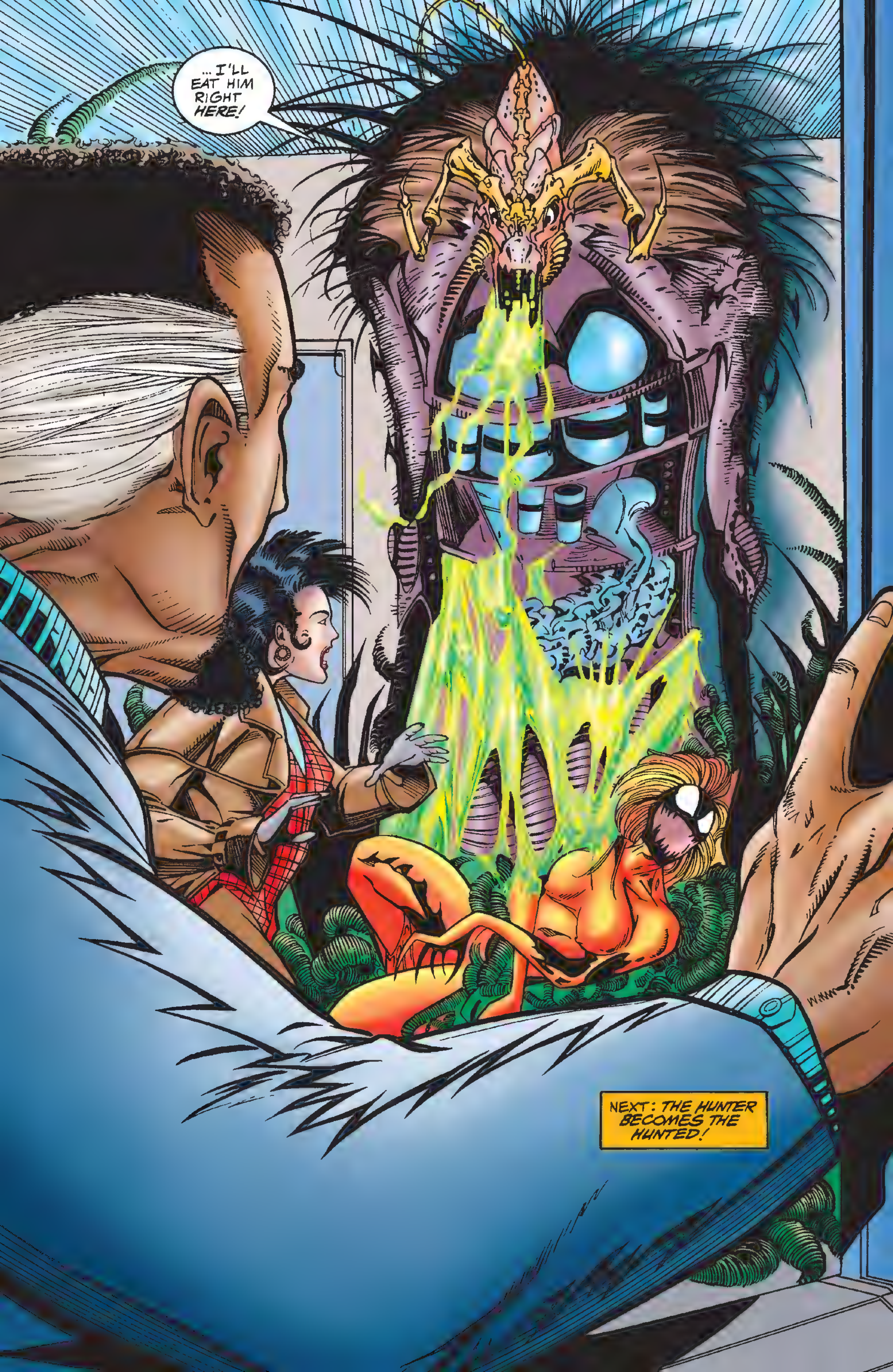
WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

WE HAVE AN UNTENABLE SITUATION HERE, DETECTIVE STEEN!

VENOM IS DEFINITELY WEAKENED BY THE SOUND, BUT HE'S STILL WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A HANDFUL!!

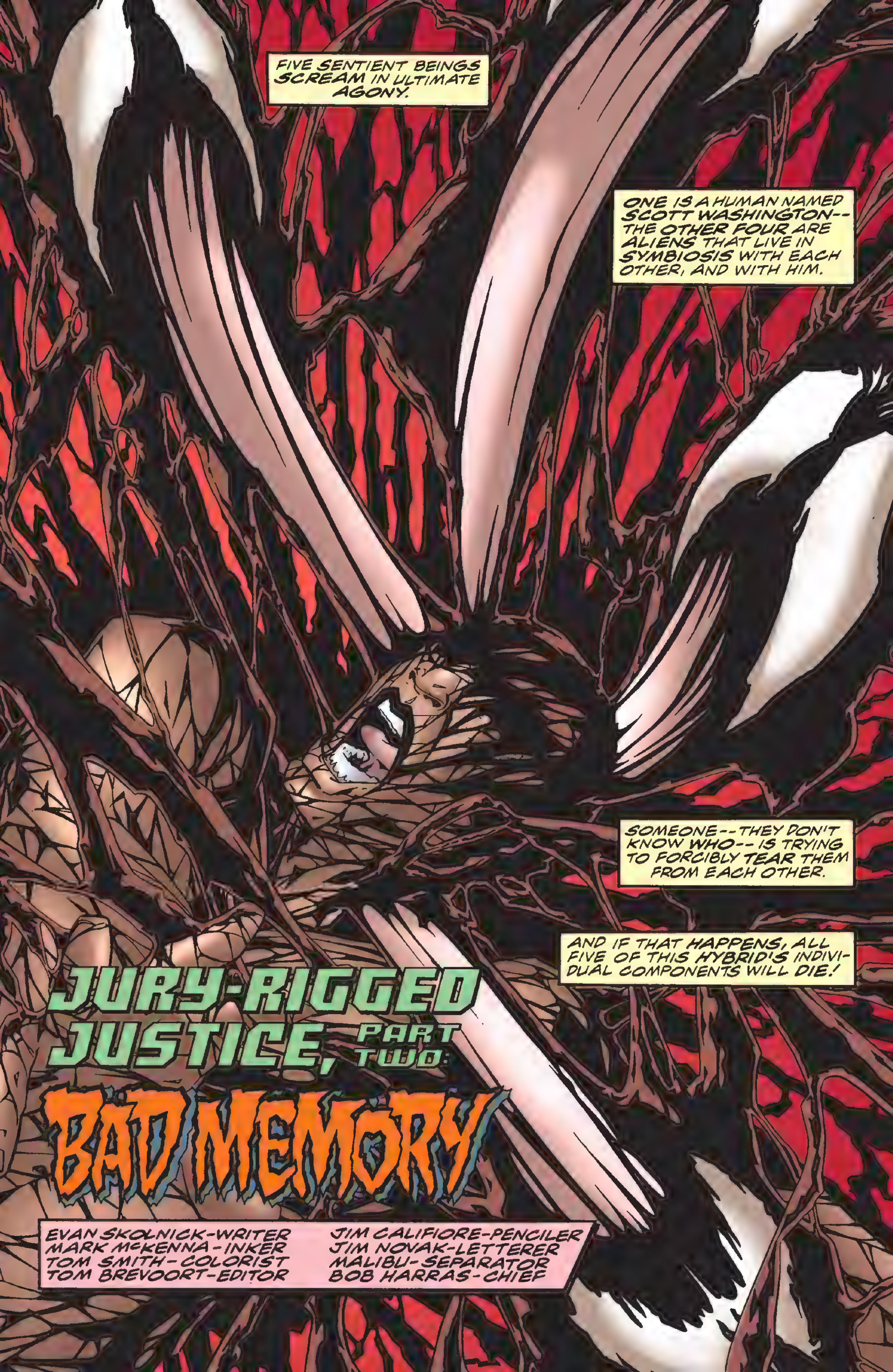
WRAP HIM UP IN CHAINS AND A STRAIT-JACKET AND WE'LL HAVE DR. KAFKA COME RIGHT DOWN AND HAUL HIM OFF TO RAVENCROFT!

OH, DON'T BOTHER TO WRAP HIM...



... I'LL
EAT HIM
RIGHT
HERE!

NEXT: THE HUNTER
BECOMES THE
HUNTED!



FIVE SENTIENT BEINGS
SCREAM IN ULTIMATE
AGONY.

ONE IS A HUMAN NAMED
SCOTT WASHINGTON--
THE OTHER FOUR ARE
ALIENS THAT LIVE IN
SYMBIOSIS WITH EACH
OTHER, AND WITH HIM.

SOMEONE--THEY DON'T
KNOW WHO-- IS TRYING
TO FORCIBLY TEAR THEM
FROM EACH OTHER.

AND IF THAT HAPPENS, ALL
FIVE OF THIS HYBRID'S INDIVI-
DUAL COMPONENTS WILL DIE!

JURY-RIGGED JUSTICE, PART TWO:

BAD MEMORY

EVAN SKOLNICK-WRITER
MARK MCKENNA-INKER
TOM SMITH-COLORIST
TOM BREVOORT-EDITOR

JIM CALIFIORE-PENCILER
JIM NOVAK-LETTERER
MALIBU-SEPARATOR
BOB HARRAS-CHIEF

THE PEOPLE WHO CAPTURED
THE HYBRID LIKE TO CALL
THEMSELVES THE JURY.

THEY'RE OUT TO MAKE
THE WORLD A BETTER
PLACE...WHETHER YOU
LIKE IT OR NOT.

THEY'VE PATTERNED
THEIR SYSTEM OF
"JUSTICE" AFTER
THE UNITED STATES'
OWN CRIMINAL
COURTS SYSTEM.

OBVIOUSLY, THEY'RE A
LITTLE MORE EXTREME
THAN THAT.

BUT EVEN THEY HAVE
RULES. AND ONE OF
THOSE RULES IS...

--WE DON'T
KILL THE SUSPECT
BEFORE THE TRIAL
BEGINS, MS. LENTZ!

THAT'S NOT
WHAT WE'RE
ABOUT!

SCREEEEAAAW

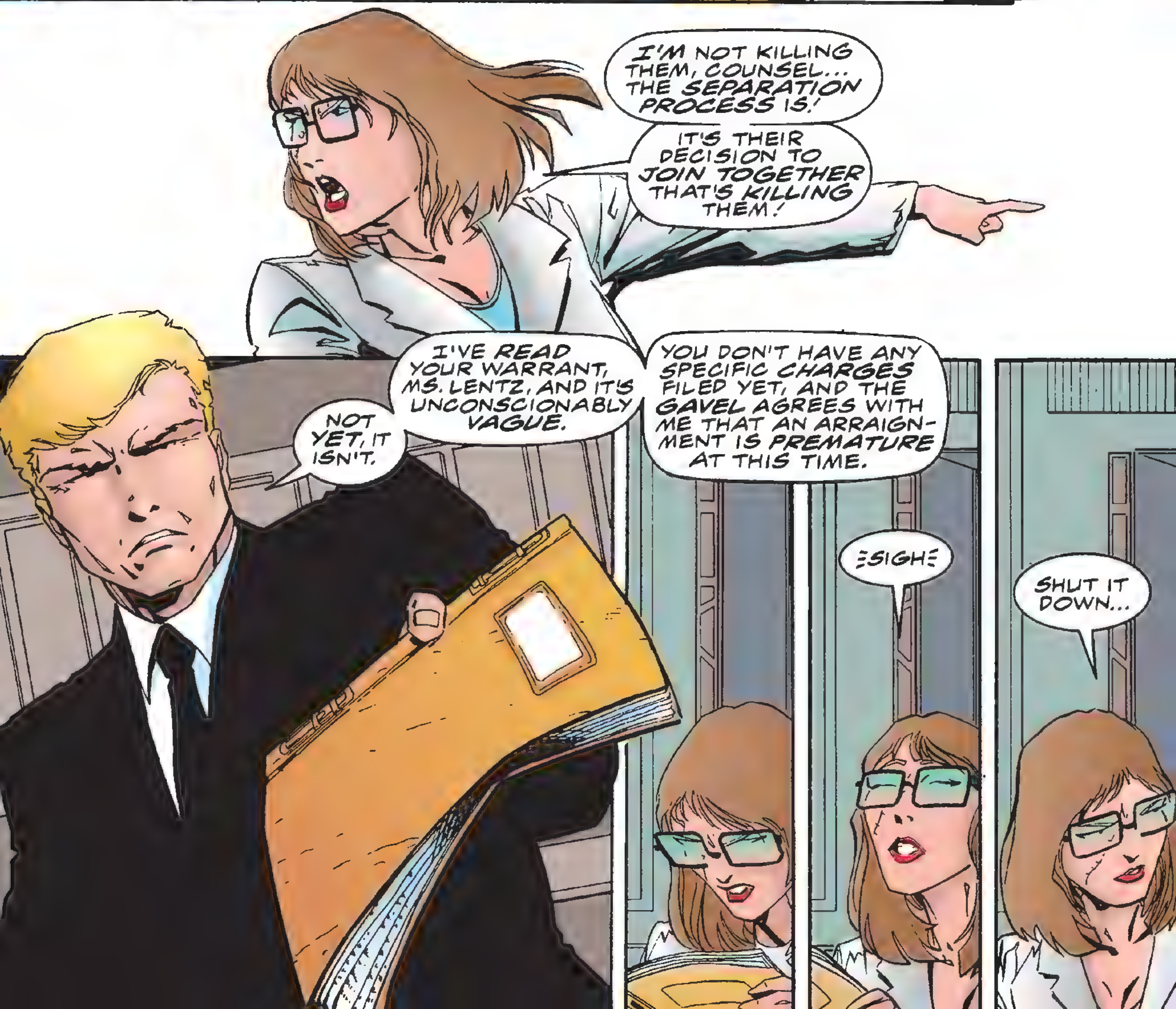
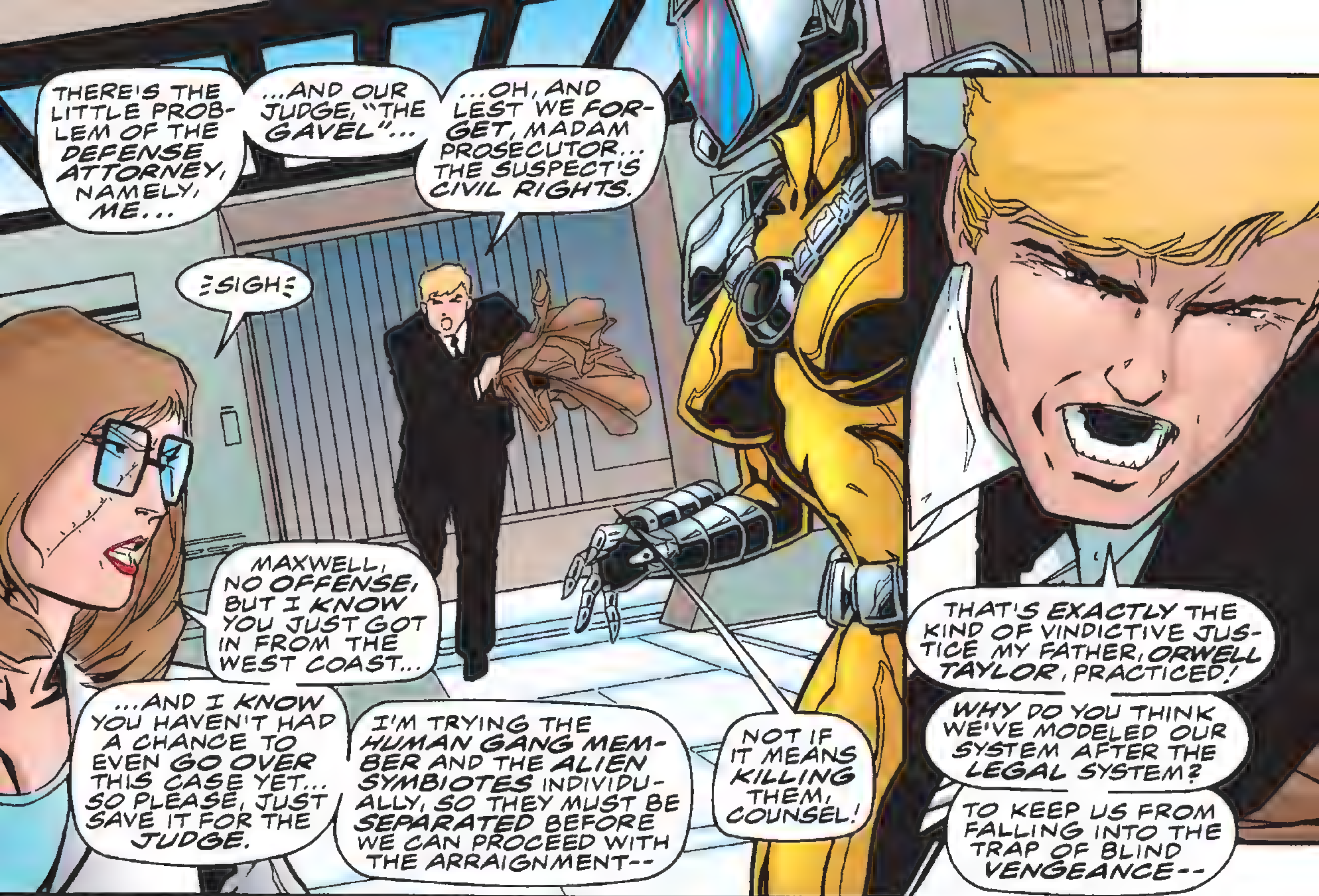
YOU ISSUE THE WAR-
RANTS AND WE SERVE
'EM, BUT I'M NOT
GONNA SIT BY
WHILE YOU--

I'LL SAY
IT AGAIN,
JUROR,
JUST SO
IT'S PER-
FECTLY
CLEAR...

...YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THIS CASE
IS NOW
FINISHED.

AS LEAD
PROSECUTOR,
THE ARRAIGN-
MENT AND
EVERYTHING BE-
YOND IT IS MY
TERRITORY--

BUT
NOT YOURS
ALONE,
OLIVIA!



I KNOW YOU HAVE SOMETHING PERSONAL AGAINST ALL SYMBIOTES, OLIVIA.

BUT WE BOTH HAVE RESEARCH TO DO BEFORE YOU RISK THIS GUY'S LIFE PREPPING HIM FOR TRIAL.

FINE, BUT I STILL SAY IT'S A WASTE OF EFFORT.

WE KNOW WHAT SYMBIOTES ARE...WHAT THEY DO. A TRIAL FOR THEM IS JUST A TECHNICALITY.

HEY! THE PRISONER'S FACE--!

YOU SEE THAT, RAMSHOT? IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?

HOLY \$#!%⁹⁶, SENTRY, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT-- IT'S SCOTT WASHINGTON!

SHURRAK

WHO'S THAT?

HE'S A GUARDSMAN, LIKE A LOT OF US JURORS USED TO BE.

OR AT LEAST HE WAS, WHEN HE SERVED UNDER ME, BACK IN THE VAULT. REMEMBER, RAMSHOT?

YEAH, BUT I HEARD HE GOT TRANSFERRED A FEW MONTHS BACK.

MAYBE HE WAS ASSIGNED TO GUARD THESE SYMBIOTES, AND THEY TOOK HIM OVER--

NO WAY. SCOTT WAS ONE OF THE BEST MEN I EVER HAD.

IF ANYTHING, I BET HE TOOK THEM OVER.

WELL, WELL, MS. LENTZ...

...LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE EVEN MORE HOME-WORK TO DO THAN WE THOUGHT, EH?

SEVERAL MINUTES EARLIER, IN A HOUSING PROJECT IN ONE OF BROOKLYN'S MOST DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOODS...

YOU'RE DWIGHT, YES?

WE'RE THE NEW WARRIORS. I'M JUSTICE... MY TEAMMATES HERE ARE CALLED POWERHOUSE AND TURBO.

WHOA--!

YEAH, THAT'S ME, DWIGHT SIMMS.

I'D SHAKE YOUR HAND, BUT--

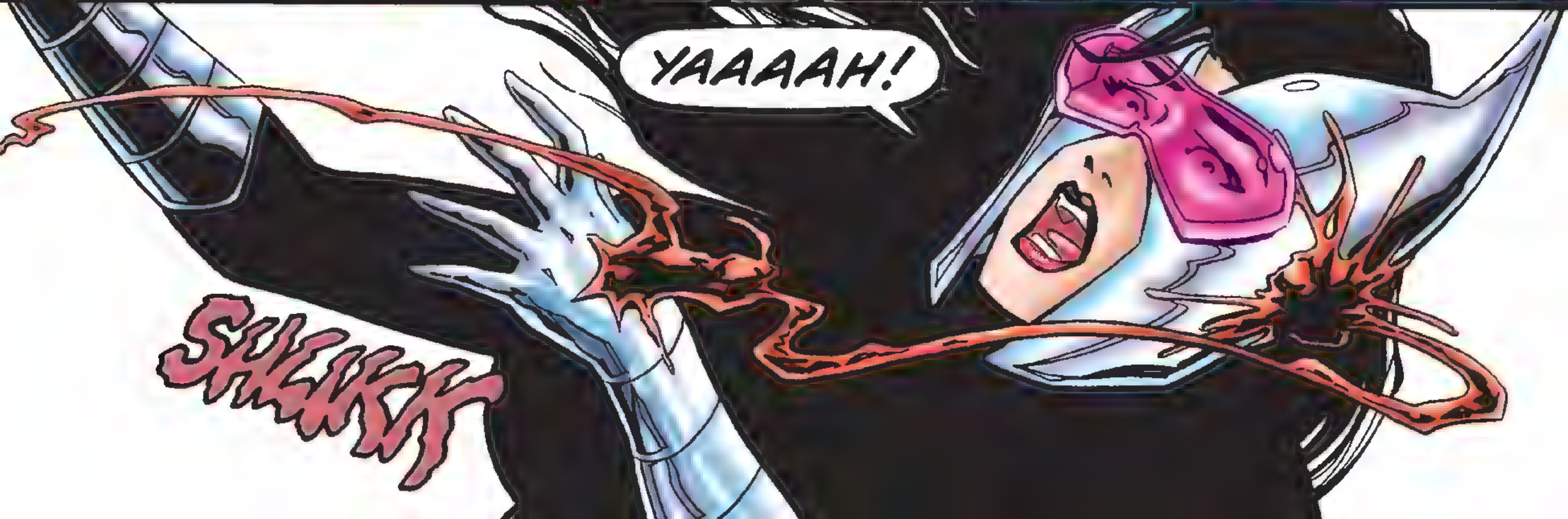
BUT YOU'RE CARRYING THE SYMBIOTE TENDRIL YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT ON THE PHONE.*

*LAST ISSUE! --TOM

SORRY IT TOOK US SO LONG TO REPLY TO YOUR CALL, BUT THE MESSAGE HAD TO BE RE-ROUTED AND FORWARDED TO--

NO PROB, MAN...

...I JUST HOPE YOU SUPER-GUYS CAN HELP FIGURE OUT WHERE SCOTT IS, AND WHAT'S GOIN' ON.



DON'T PANIC,
TURBO! I'LL TELE-
KINETICALLY PRY
IT OFF--

NO, WAIT!
IT'S...IT'S
COMMUNI-
CATING
SOMETHING!

WHAT'S IT
"SAYING"
TO YOU?

NOT TO
ME... TO MY
ARMOR!

SIMPLE
BINARY CODE,
THE MOST
EFFICIENT WAY
POSSIBLE...

...TELEPATHIC
SIGNAL STRENGTH...
LOCATION TRACER
... RELATIVE
POSITION...

SHLURP

...GOT
IT!

YOU HAVE A
LOCK ON HIS
POSITION?

LOUD
AND CLEAR,
VANCE.

HE'S
ALIVE... JUST
BARELY.

THEN LET'S
MOVE!

AW,
MAAAAN...

...I WAS
ACTUALLY HOPIN'
THE LITTLE PILE
A'POOP WOULD
PULL
THROUGH...

THE BRONX...

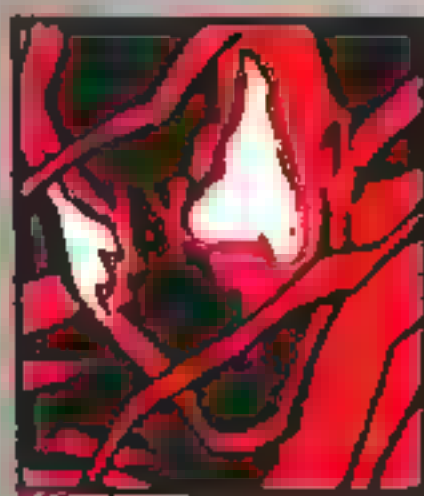
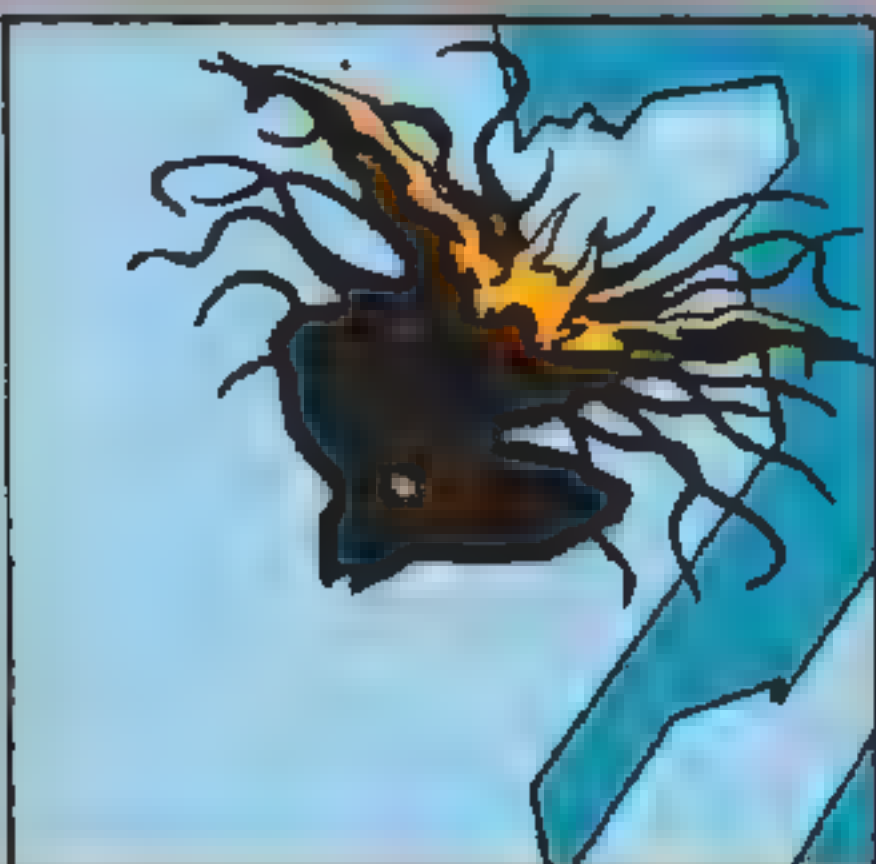
...HOME TO THE JURY'S NEW YORK "COURTHOUSE", FAR BENEATH THE MISLEADING FURNITURE WAREHOUSE FACADE...

...AS LEAD PROSECUTOR OLIVIA LENTZ TAKES TIME TO READ THE FINE PRINT.

PENCILS DOWN, CLASS.

A VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN?

Mysterious Creature Continues to Haunt Bedford-Stuyvesant.



Wed like to start virtually from the beginning as to how you became involved in the art side of things, the whole administrative side.

Oh, Sure. O.K. um, yeah, I mean or, you mean starting really basic like or Yeah, just you know even going back to school if that where it all sort of I mean I like from lot of

draw constantly as soon as somebody tells you how great it looks I like everybody else they tell you it looks good and you keep drawing, so I did those drawings. I remember when I was 5 I did drawing

school, I didn't even go to school and they pinned it up in the school because I did a lot of detailed stuff. I did window shades with details on them, I did draperies, I did chairs. At the age of 5 I did a drawing of a card game of my father and I put about four guys or five guys around a table and did every leg on the chairs. I did their feet underneath, so I got a lot of the early attention, and so at high school I did everybody else draw does I draw illustrations, I do days, I do days. I do days.

EQUITY, INC.
BETTER FURNITURE FOR BETTER LIVING

HEY, MAXWELL, DONE ALREADY?

I DON'T THINK THIS NEEDS TO GO ANY FURTHER.

HE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT A GANG MEMBER LIKE YOU ASSUMED. HE'S A GOOD GUY-- TRYING TO CLEAN UP ONE OF THE WORST NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE COUNTRY.

NOT DOING A BAD JOB, EITHER... CRIME'S DOWN 50% IN BED-STUY SINCE HE SHOWED UP, OVERALL GANG MEMBERSHIP'S DOWN, DRUG DEALERS BEING CHASED OFF THE STREETS...

ARE A PART OF HIM NOW, YOU CAN'T TRY THEM WITHOUT TRYING HIM, TOO.

AND YOU CAN'T TRY WASHINGTON, BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ON HIM.

BUT--

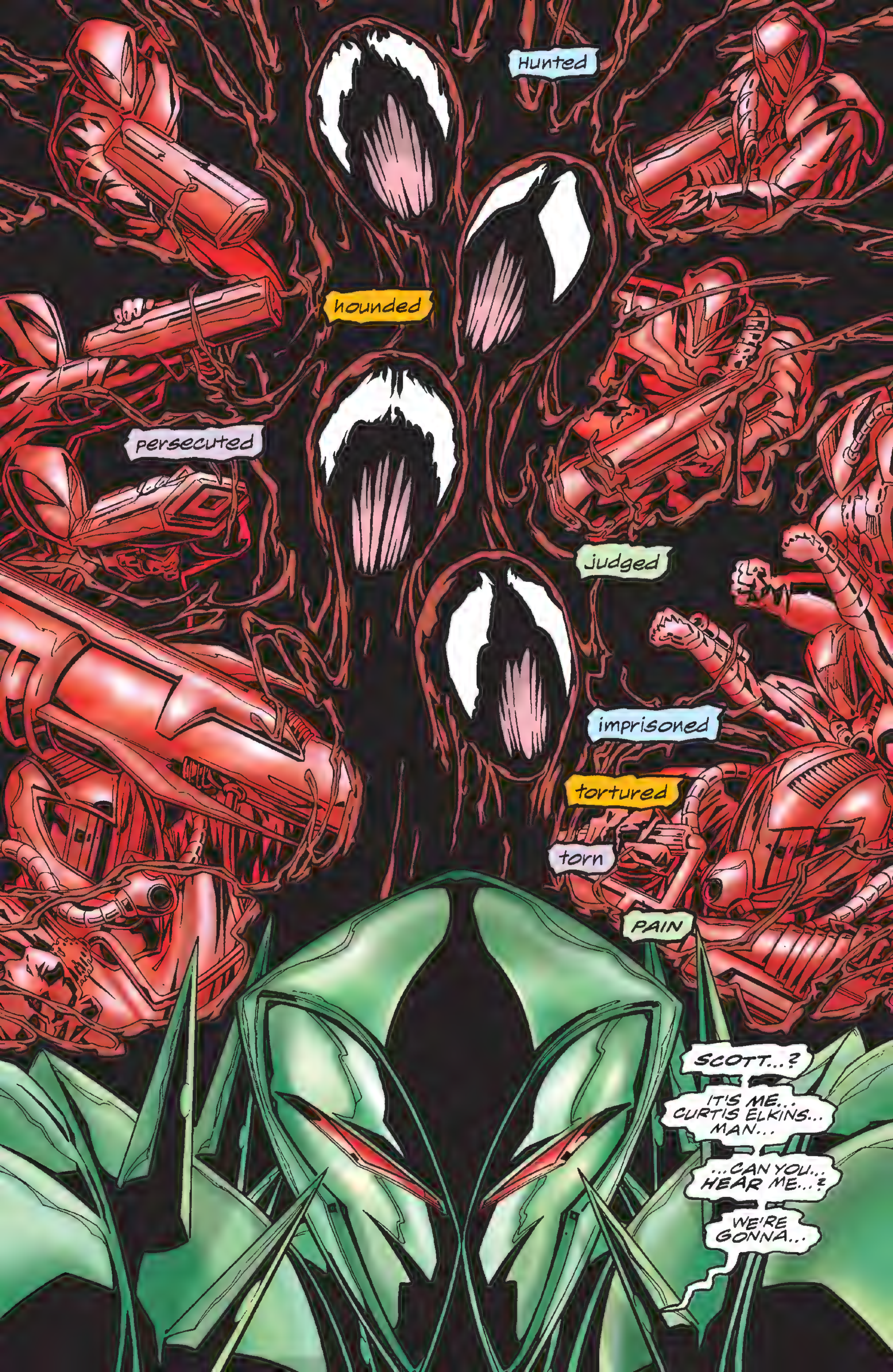
YEAH, WASHINGTON'S CLEAN. BUT THE SYMBIOTES--

BESIDES, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THESE SPECIFIC SYMBIOTES, EITHER.

IN FACT, THEY WERE ORIGINALLY MELDED WITH HUMANS WHO WERE TRYING TO BRING VENOM TO JUSTICE... JUST LIKE WE USED TO.

FACE IT, COUNSEL...

...IT'S TIME TO DROP THE CHARGES.



Hunted

hounded

persecuted

judged

imprisoned

tortured

torn

PAIN

SCOTT...?

IT'S ME...
CURTIS ELKINS...
MAN...

...CAN YOU...
HEAR ME...?

WE'RE
GONNA...



--SET YOU
FREE, AND HAVE
A LITTLE TALK.

OKAY?

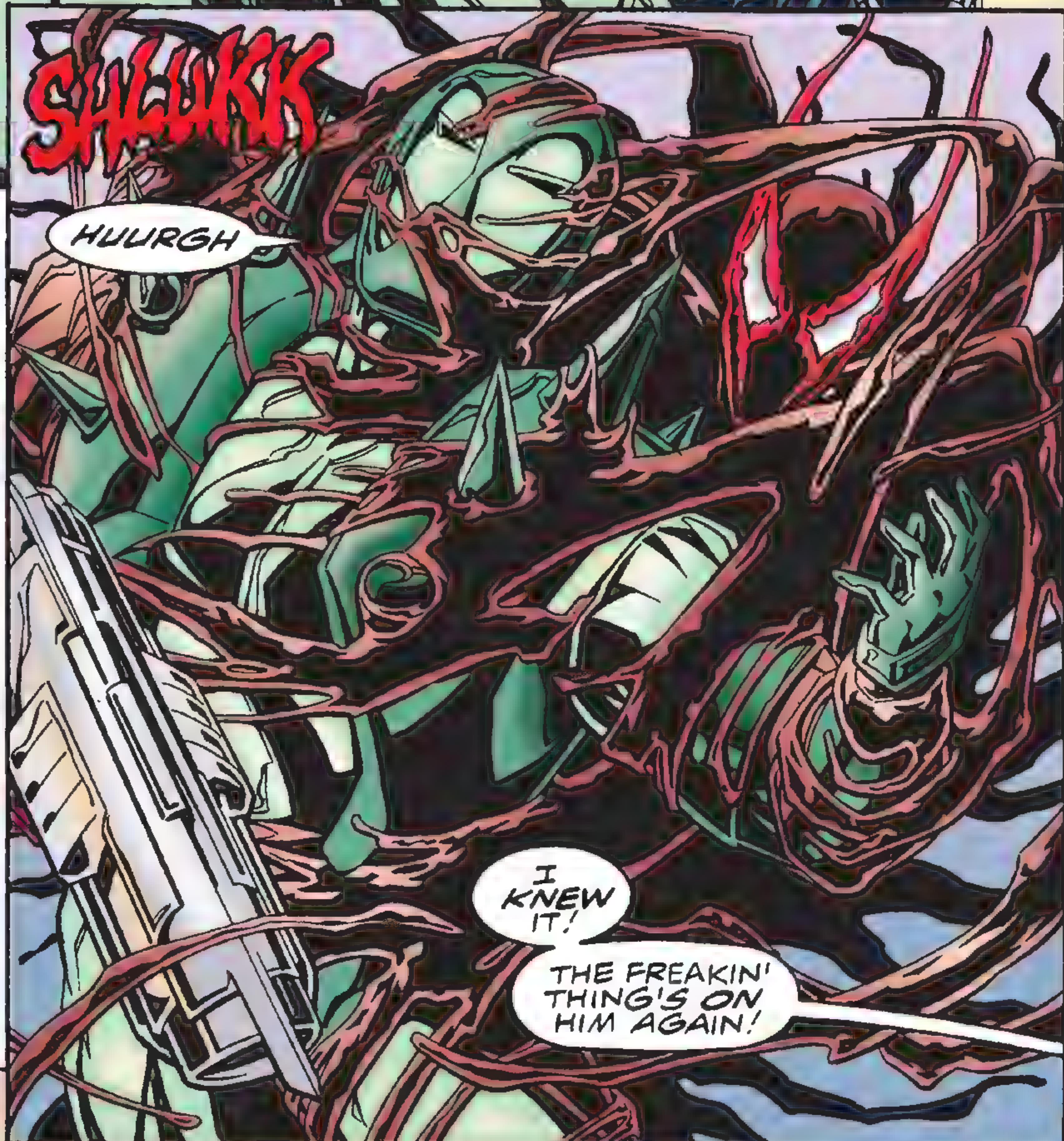
I'M
COMING IN
NOW...



Guardsmen

TORTURER

MURDERER!



SHLUKK

HUURGH

I
KNEW
IT!

THE FREAKIN'
THING'S ON
HIM AGAIN!



HOLD
YOUR
FIRE!

DON'T RISK A
SHOT THAT MIGHT
HURT SENTRY!



NO! STOP IT!

CURTIS WAS A FRIEND OF MINE-- THESE GUYS HAVE REALIZED THEIR MISTAKE!

ONLY MISTAKE

was coming too close

to HYBRID!

SCOTT, DON'T DO THIS!

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY CONTROL OVER THOSE THINGS, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!

THE CHARGES WERE DROPPED, WE WERE GONNA LET YOU GO--



SHRAAK
SHRAAK

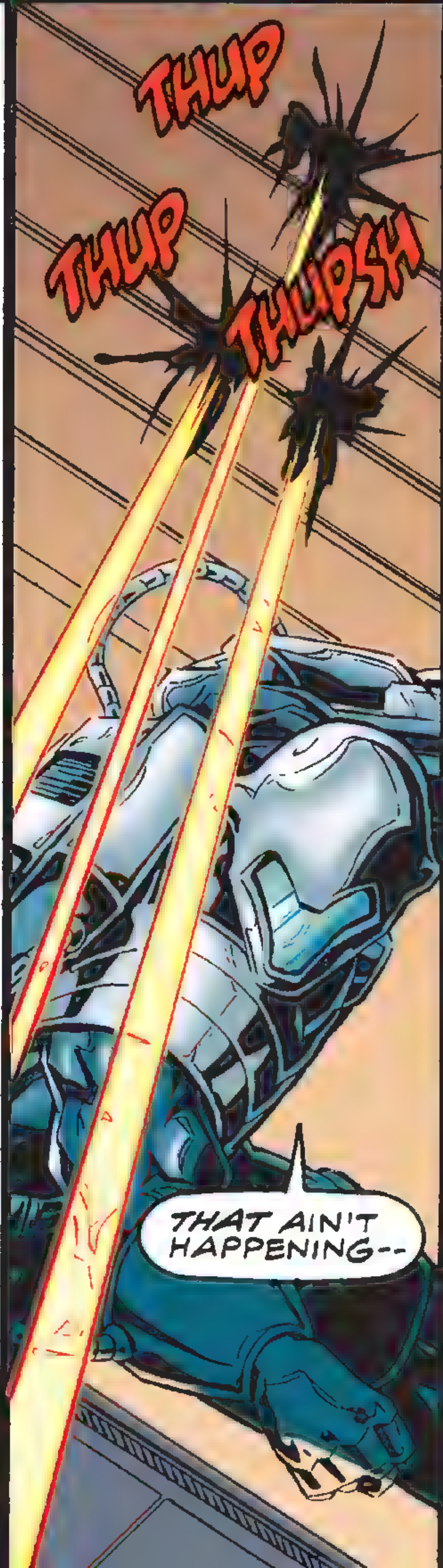
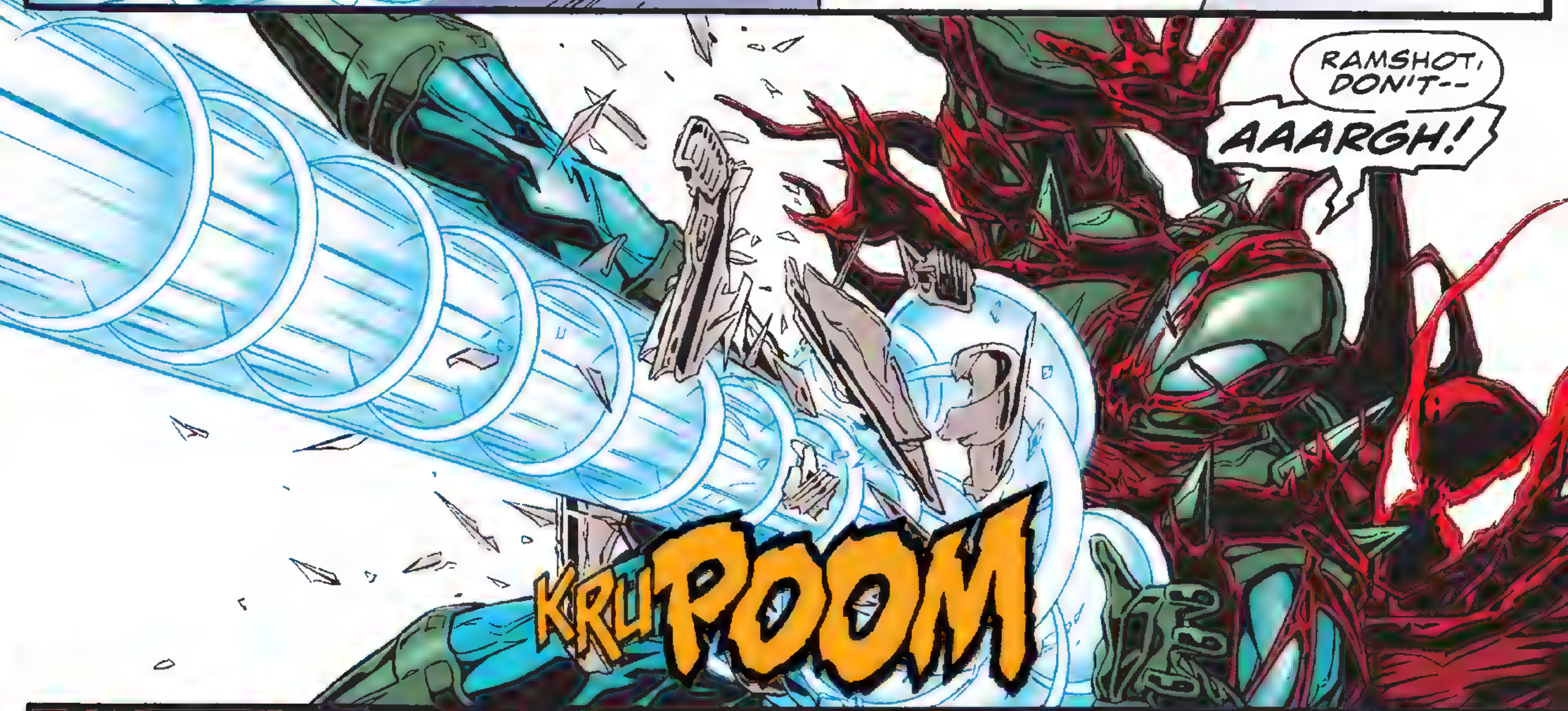
SHRAAK

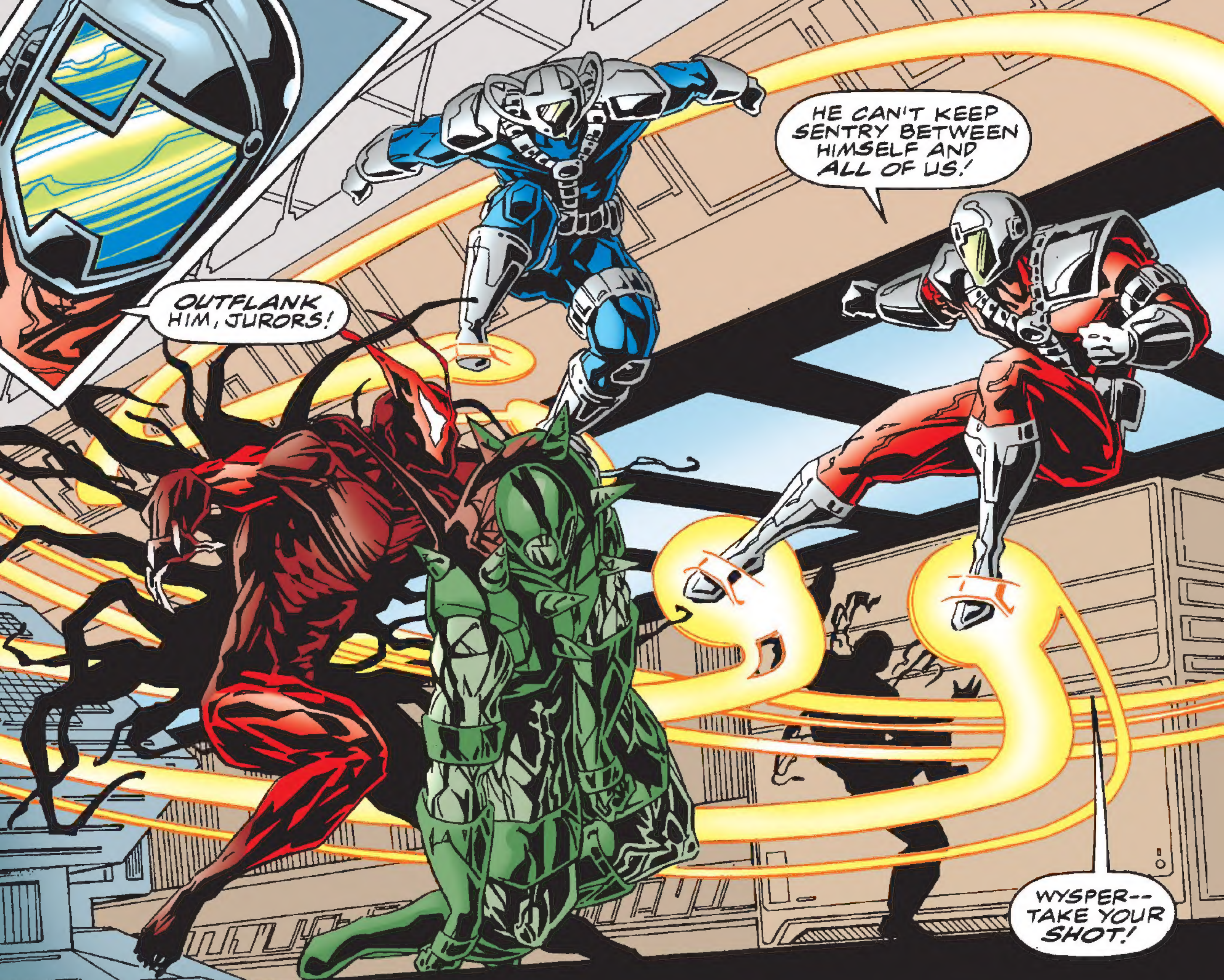
NOOO!

AAAGH

URRGHH!

UNNH!







WAY TO BE,
JURORS!

SOON AS I
FINISH OFF
THESE LITTLE
GUMMY
BEARS, I'LL
HELP YOU
KICK THAT--



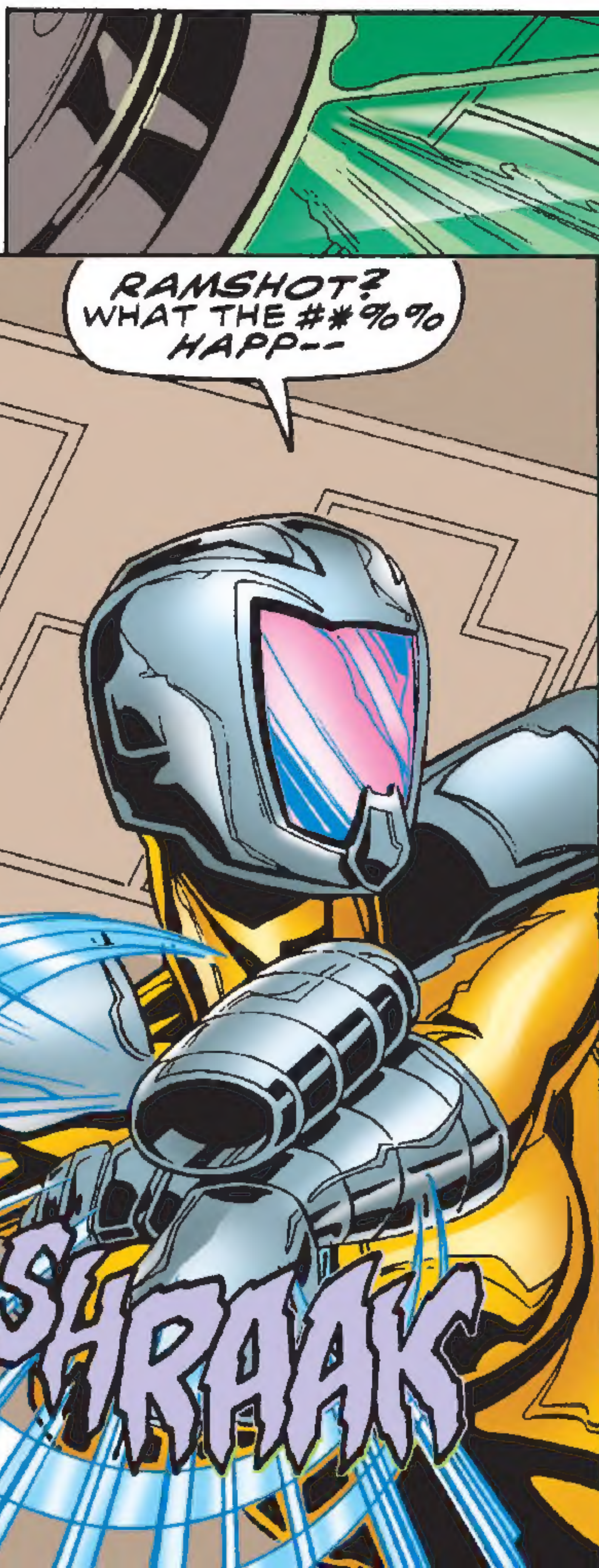
HEY-- MY
GUN!

IT'S
MOVIN'
ALL BY
ITSEL--



KRANK

WHUHH!



RAMSHOT?
WHAT THE ##%%%
HAPP--

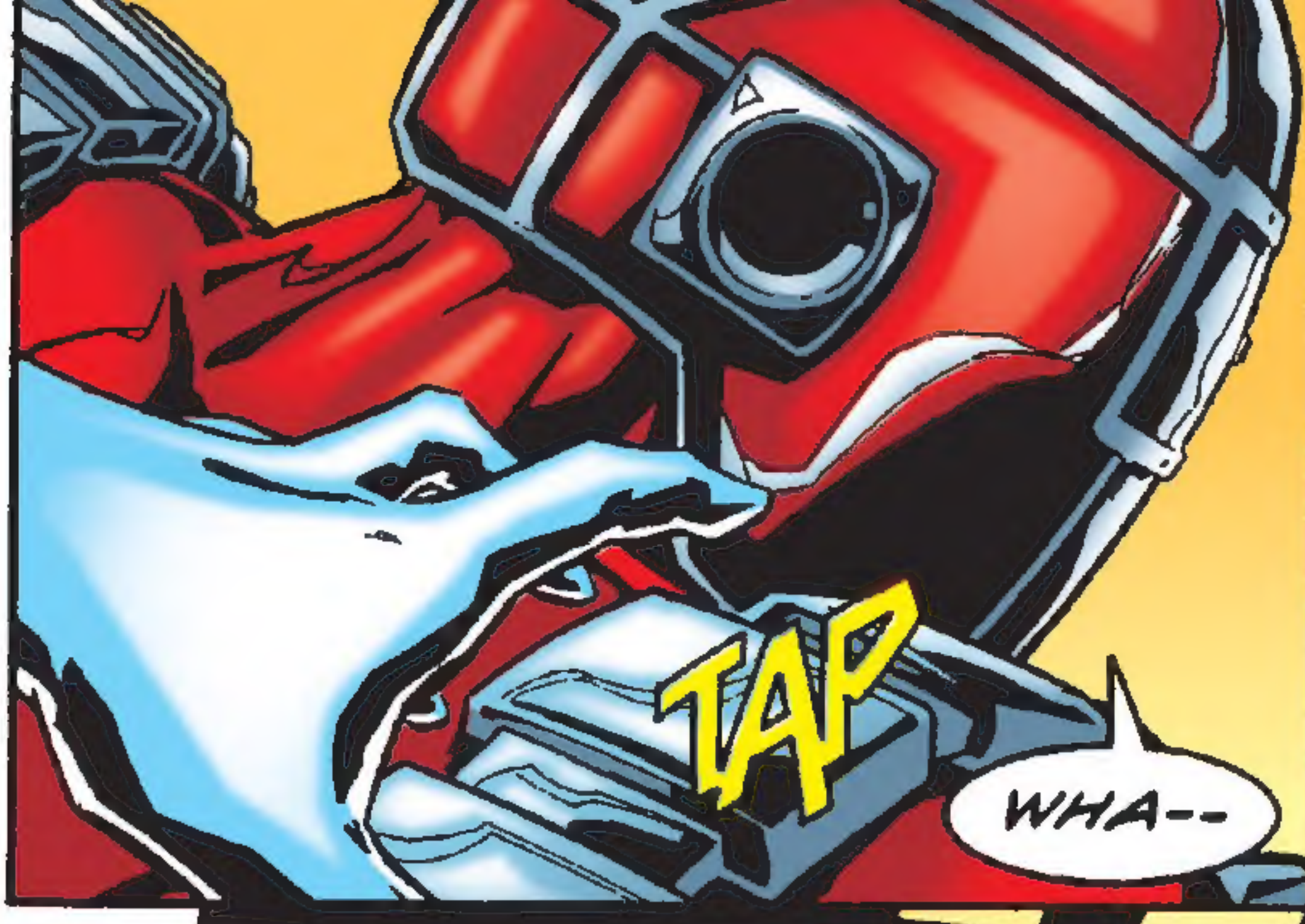
SHRAAK



FWOOOXH

URNNH!

KASHH



TAP

WHA--



--ABOUT
TEN TONS!

THUNKCH



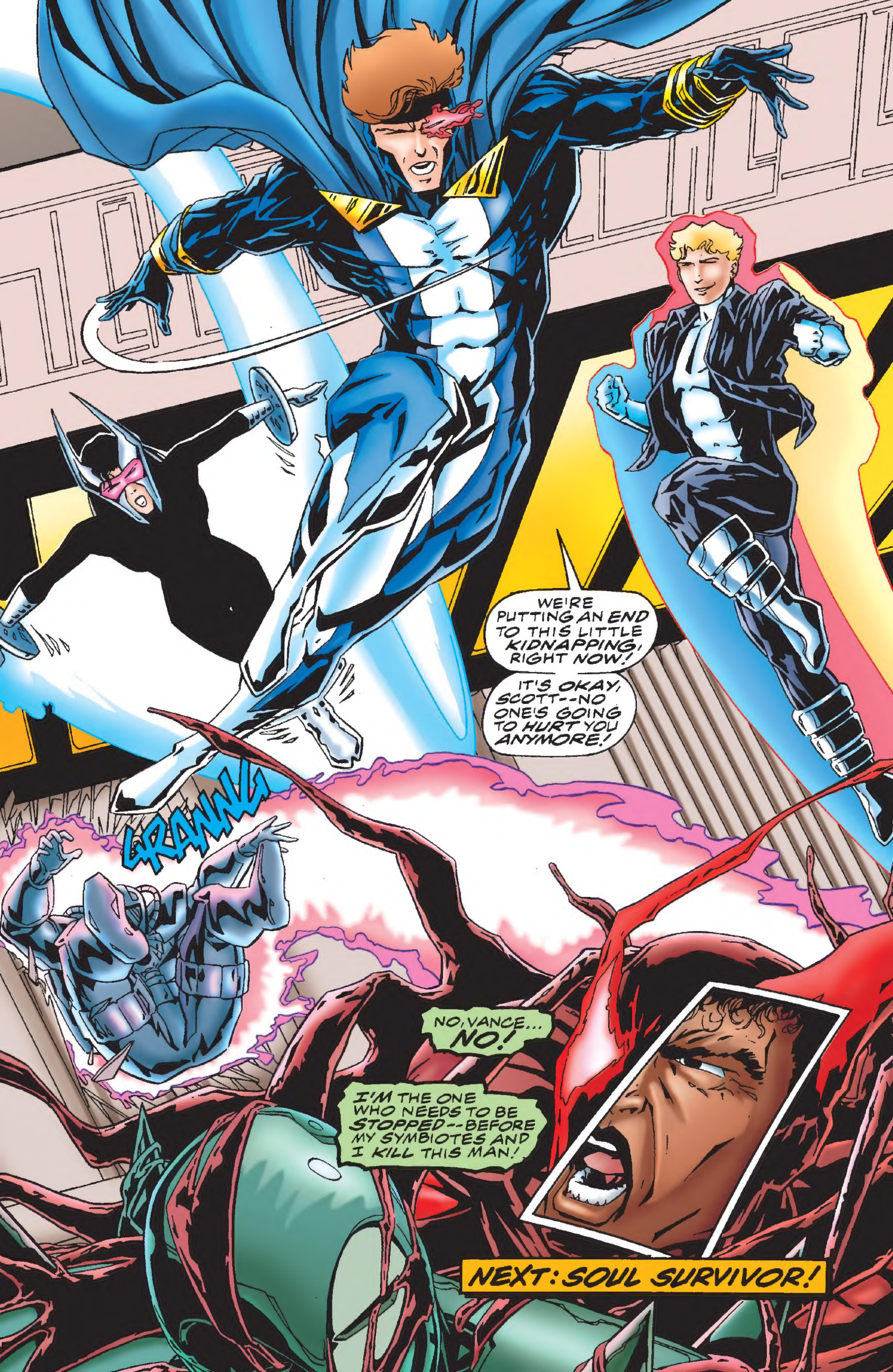
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
LOSING ALTITUDE--
ARMOR FEELS LIKE
IT WEIGHS--



WHAT
THE--?!

WHO ARE
YOU LOSERS?

WHAT THE
##90% ARE YOU
DOING?!



WE'RE
PUTTING AN END
TO THIS LITTLE
KIDNAPPING,
RIGHT NOW!

IT'S OKAY,
SCOTT--NO
ONE'S GOING
TO HURT YOU
ANYMORE!

CRANK!

NO, VANCE...
NO!

I'M THE ONE
WHO NEEDS TO BE
STOPPED--BEFORE
MY SYMBIOTES AND
I KILL THIS MAN!



NEXT: SOUL SURVIVOR!